

Stars Are Coming to Your Pt Street HOLLY WOOD THE TOULES! Stars Are Coming to Your Pt Street Coming to Your Pt Street

Creating Snazzy Newsletters

Hideaway PC Furniture

10 Must-Have Programs

Speed Up Your PC
Protect Your Work
ver Lost Files
More!

ทนเจ + Bolts: Installing a Hard Drive

A CMP Publication ®



THE BEST VALUE IN CD-ROMS

The World's Best Digital Photographs

- Coffee-table book and companion CD-ROM
- 120 high-resolution royalty free images
- Accompanied by inspirational quotes
- Selected from Corel Professional Photos, the world's leading photo CD-ROM collection

\$45.00*

COLLECTION

- Each of the four coffee-table books and CD-ROMs in the collection contains over 3,000 images
- Available as a collection or sold separately
- The images were selected from the annual Corel World Design Contest
- Learn techniques from the pros

\$69.00*





TALLERY

- 10,000 "drag and drop" or "cut and paste" clipart images (6,000 in color)
- Includes an easy-to-use
 Visual Clipart Manager
- Unlimited uses brochures, newsletters, presentations, reports, invitations, memos, ads, and more
- Windows and Macintosh versions available

\$35.00*

COREL PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS

- 100 razor-sharp photographs in the Kodak Photo CD format
- Royalty free and ready for color separation
- Can be converted to a variety of file formats
- Screen saver utilities included
- Hundreds of categories to choose from—and more each month
- PC and Mac compatible

\$17.00*

We ship FedEx standard overnight shipping

1-800-359-0322

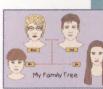
Call 24-hours a day
Or order via Internet!
INFO@INSIGHTD.COM

*US\$ plus applicable taxas and shipping

Enter the Corel \$2,000,000 World Design Contest and win! (September to March) To receive a faxed copy of the contest rules and an entry form please call: 1-613-728-0826 ext. 3080, Occument #1004. To leave a message please call: 1-613-728-0826 ext. 81609.



FLOW FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



"Mix and match" the face, body and clothing symbols to create fun characters. CorelFLOW was so easy to use, our son even made our family tree!





CorelFLOW allowed me to clearly organize and communicate my ideas. Creating a diagram took no time at all, and my client was really impressed!





We planned the layout of our house using the floorplan, furniture and landscaping symbols included in CorelFLOW. It was fun and saved us a lot of money!

CorelFLOW includes:

- 2,000 "drag and drop" symbols
- 1,000 clipart images
- 1,000 photo images
- 100 TrueType fonts
- Automatic symbol connectors
- Direct on-screen editing
- Advanced diagramming features too!

CD-ROM drive required to access complete libraries of symbols, clipart, photos and fonts.



I scored points with my teachers when I used CorelFLOW for school projects. Clipart, photos and symbols added flair to my homework.



Quick and Powerful Diagrams!



Call for the store ne

*US\$ plus applicable taxes.



Enter the Corel \$2,000,000 World Design Contest and win! (September to March) To receive a faxed copy of the contest rules and an ontry form please call: 1-813-728-0826 ext. 3080, Occument #1004. To leave a message please call: 1-613-728-0826 oxt. 81609.





Complete Graphics & Publishing Solution

CoreIDRAW 5 combines the graphics power of CoreIDRAW and the advanced publishing capabilities of CoreI VENTURA 5 within an integrated user interface. CoreIDRAW 5 has all the modules of CoreIDRAW 4 plus a revolutionary color management system, major gains in speed and performance, and hundreds of improvements.

• 825 fonts • 22,000 Clipart Images & Symbols

Call for the location of the Egghead Software store nearest you. To order directly from our Eggspress Ordering Service, please call 1-800-EGGHEAD SOFTWARE

North America's Software Eggsperts.

Hearing and Speech Impaired customers can reach us by calling 1-800-849-3447 TOO

Call Direct

* US\$ plus applicable taxes



CONFERENCE & SHOWCASE June 1-2, 1995 Ottawa, Canada Call to reserve your seat! 1-800-896-2056

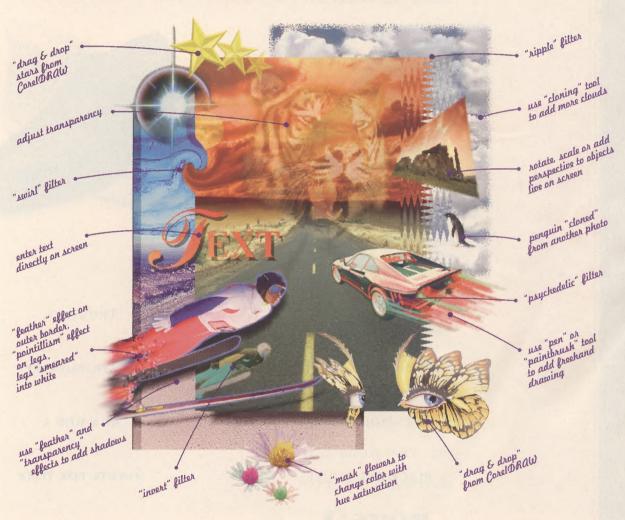


Enter the Corel \$2,000,000 World Design Contest and win! (September to March)
To receive a faxed copy of the contest rules and an entry form please call: 1-613-728-0826 ext. 3080,
Document #1004. To leave a message please dial: 1-613-728-0826 ext. 81609.

The new leader in photo-editing

PHOTO PAINT The Best in Photo-Editing and Bitmap Creation

Corel PHOTO-PAINT 5 Plus includes a powerful color management system and all the tools you will need to paint, edit and retouch your images. With dynamic special effects such as mesh warp, swirl, pinch and 3D perspectives, and the ability to import or scan photos, creating your own design is easy with Corel PHOTO-PAINT.



Productivity!

- Load and edit partial images
- Enter text directly on screen
- Accurate color calibration system
- Corel MOSAIC
- Corel CAPTURE

Creativity!

- Over 50 image enhancement litters
- Precise photo-retouching
- Amazing special effects
- Create your own palettes and brushes

Easy to Use!

- 1,000 photo images
- 10,000 clipart images
- 100 TrueType and Type 1 lonts
- Intuitive user interlace
- Comprehensive documentation



CONFERENCE & SHOWCASE June 1-2, 1995 Ottawa, Canada Call to reserve your seet! 1-800-896-2056

\$149⁹⁹
CD-ROM Version

COMPUSA.
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE.

1-800-COMPUSA 1-800-266-7872 Visit any of our stores or call our nationwide toll-free number.



COREL





MONDAY,

YOU PRINT OUT

A SHARP

BLACK AND WHITE

PROPOSAL.

THURSDAY,

IT'S SPREADSHEETS

AT A MILE A

MINUTE FOR YOUR

ACCOUNTANT.



Saturday,

it's a fun, colorful

invitation

for your annual

family picnic.

The new Canon BJC-4000 is a kick to have around the home or office. It lets you print sharp black and white output at speeds that are faster than most lasers, which is perfect for your business. While its vibrant color is simply perfect for any labor of love. For even more details on the affordable Canon BJC-4000 or the name of your nearest Canon dealer, just call us at 1-800-848-4123. And then get yourself the kind of color printer that's right in step with all your needs.

Canon

For more information, call 1-800-NEC-INFO. For information sent to your fax, call 1-800-366-0476 and request document #737601. MultiSpin is a registered trademark, and Ready and See, Hear



NEC MULTIMEDIA WILL TAKE YOU PLACES YOU'VE NEVER BE



With NEC multimedia, you're not on the sidelines. You're in the middle of it all. And you won't miss a single sight, sound, or feeling with ultimate in features, including an NEC MultiSpin® CD-ROM drive and 16-bit stereo sound, with the most popular home office applications



EN. THE ULTIMATE MULTIMEDIA SYSTEM IS READY. ARE YOU?

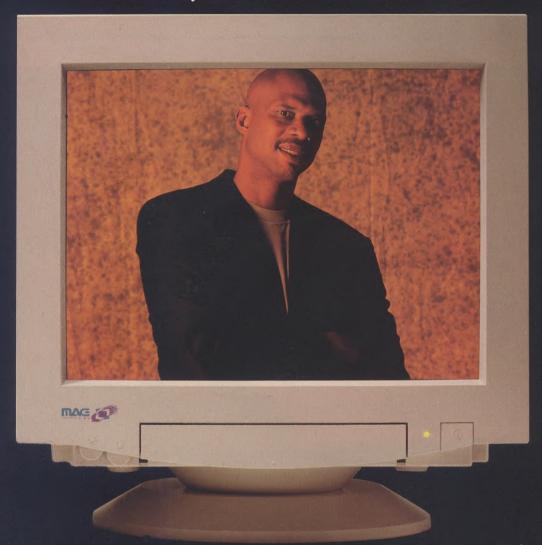
NEC's high-performance Ready series. We've fully integrated the for an unparalleled sensory experience. Yeah, you're ready.



SEE, HEAR AND FEEL THE DIFFERENCE:

NEC

It's a Game of Inches.









STEAR LIMITED

MAG INNOVISION DX17F

Microprocessor-based, digitally controlled 17-inch color monitor ESTIMATED RETAIL PRICE \$729

SOME USE SIZE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.

SURE THERE'S SIMILARITIES WHEN IT COMES TO ENVIRON-MENTAL CONCERNS (GREEN ENERGY-EPA ENERGY STAR, VESA DPMS, NO CFC, SWEDAC MPR II).

AND PRICE IS SIMILAR.

BUT FOR THE PRICE, SIZE IS ON OUR SIDE (118 SQUARE INCHES).

THEN THERE'S A DOT PITCH OF 0.26MM AND A 1280 x 1024 MAXIMUM RESOLUTION.

SO INCH FOR INCH, YOU'RE GETTING MORE.

A BIG REASON WHY MAG INNOVISION IS THE LARGEST 17-INCH COLOR MONITOR MANUFACTURER IN THE WORLD FOR PC'S, AND COMPATIBLES. NO OTHER MANUFACTURER EVEN COMES CLOSE.

And Some Just Don't Measure Up.



NEC 4FGE

Microprocessor-based, digitally controlled 15-inch color monitor ESTIMATED STREET PRICE \$755

AND SOME FIND IT DIFFICULT TO HANDLE.

THAT THEY AGREE ON (EPA ENERGY STAR, VESA DPMS, NO CFC, SWEDAC MPR II).

THAT'S TRUE.

SO WHY PAY FOR LESS (27 SQUARE INCHES LESS)?

YOU WON'T FIND THAT HERE.

NOT LESS.

THE DX17F AND OTHER MAG INNOVISION MODELS ARE AVAILABLE AT BEST VALUE PRICES FROM:



1-800-548-5105



1-800-846-0004



1-800-927-3192



1-800-800-7547



1-800-494-4CDW



useum MEET THE MOUSE AS INDIVIDUAL AS YOU ARE. MOUSEMAN® SENSA. G COMFORTABLE NATURAL DESIGN. ## ELIMINATE DOUBLE CLICKING. Assign all double clicks to A SINGLE CLICK. COMPRESS TEDIOUS POINT AND CLICK COMMANDS TO THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON. G COMES IN TWO TEXTURES YOU'LL WANT TO TOUCH AND FOUR LUXURIOUS SHADES. Plug and Play Ready. MOUSEMAN ALSO COMES IN CLASSIC LOGIGRAY. TO RECEIVE PRODUCT INFORMATION BY FAX, CALL 1-800-245-0000, EXT. 4028. Choose the MouseMan Sensa

HOMEPO

march 1995 vol.2, no.3

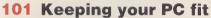
a cmp publication®

entertainment, education & productivi

features

88 Hooray for Hollywood? -

Thrill to the new CD-ROM games that combine einematic flash and areade-style interactivity. Film studios and software developers are betting that the mix of innovative technology and familiar celebs will win multimedia a lead role in your home entertainment activities. But first, it has to pass the audition in your living room. By Jeremy Schlosberg



Meet 18 programs for the well-stocked PC medicine cabinet that speed data retrieval, boost storage capacity, delete unneeded files and perform invaluable checkups to leave your PC in the pink. By Ed Perratore

110 Hide and go chic ←

Spice up your home decor with furniture that comfortably holds PC equipment for work or play, then stylishly conecals it the rest of the day. We'll show you 12 pieces that are out-of-sight. *By Ellen Frankel*

116 Open sesame!

"Web browser" software knows the magic words that unlock the treasures of 9,000 information sites on the Internet. Surf with us as we explore the best ways to mesh with the "Net" at home. *By Charles Bowen*

132 Start spreading the news...

Extra! Extra! Read all about it: Desktop publishing software makes it easier than ever to produce eye-catching newsletters that keep friends and family up to date. *By Maryann B. Brinley*

homefront

17 From the Editor

37 Letters

47 Ask Dr. PC ←

PC conflict resolution; European power; the fax on call waiting

buyer's quide

56 Hot Stuff!

"Fine-toon" your screen; a '60s flashback; magnifying glasses for your games

64 Best Buys

A free PC packing service; discounts for disc counts; software samplers

143 Consumer Lab

Our jury members do the math on the three top-selling spreadsheet programs and calculate which features add the most value.







software reviews

79 Fun and Games

Panzer General jars the Eastern front; Space Simulator shoots for the stars. Plus: ESPN Baseball Tonight, The Mask, Flash Traffic and more.

169 Kid Raves ←

Chalk up the Aladdin CD-ROM's success to *genie*ology; four stars for Morgan in ancient Greece and the Rabbits at Home. Plus: Professor lris, Ozzie's World, CyberBoogie, ColorForms and more.

179 Home Library

Sports Illustrated for Kids' CD-ROM wins fans of all ages. Also: America's Civil War, History Through Art and Coral Reef.

education

155 Preschool - Grade 3

See how "junior" versions of grown-up games and other software let kids personalize the desktop and foster a sense of belonging at the PC.

161 Grades 4 - 8

PC dictionaries aren't the last word for inspiring a love of language, but they're effective. Here's how to put them to work for your kids.

165 Grades 9 - 12

Take our quick review of word-processing software features and help teens get the most from their classroom notes at study time.

do-it-yourself

183 Nuts + Bolts

Installing a second hard drive is a first-rate solution for your PC growing pains—just follow our step-by-step instructions.

191 Hobbies + Lifestyles -

Focus on photography software to perfect your picture-taking technique.

personal productivity

199 Financial Adviser

Don't go it alone when figuring out a financial strategy: Rely on these four software packages with hints, help and how-to's from the experts.

203 Working at Home

Can't get to the PC that has the file you need? No problem—as long as you have one of the remote-control software packages we explore here.

resources

209 On-line Connections ←

Join the chats in the TV forums, where the stars' fans come out in droves.

217 Bookstore

Reviews of *The Multimedia Home Companion*, *Playing in the Digital Funhouse* and *Outrageous PC FX*.

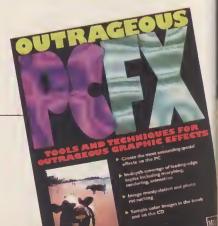
252 Finishing Touch

Faith Popcorn: There are big changes in store for the way PCs are sold.









Alexandre Patty had a rather distinctive approach to descending a staircase. Since he obviously preferred doing things the hard way, he probably wouldn't have been interested in faxing with Delrina Winfax PRO.



Given the choice between using an elevator or your head to go down a flight of stairs, you'd probably opt for the easier way, right? So if you're not already faxing with the award-winning WinFaxTM PRO 4.0 fax software, you should be. Because it is, quite simply, the easiest and most convenient way to send and receive faxes. By faxing with your PC, you'll save countless trips walking to the fax machine. And WinFax PRO makes sending a fax

from within any Windows application as easy as print-

ing a document.



WinFax PRO is available alone or in the Delrina Communications Suite™

Organizing sent and received faxes takes just a couple of mouseclicks, and you can even schedule a fax transmission for a specific date and time in the future. So visit your local dealer today, or call 1-800-631-8125 to upgrade or to order WinFax PRO, the world's best-selling fax software. Anything less is sure to be a headache.

Year after year, Delrina WinFax PRO has won nearly every major industry award – for features like fax autoforwarding, remote retrieval and handy graphics tools, including one that lets you add your own signature. You also get dozens of ready-to-use cover pages, OCR, group faxing, drag-and-drop addressing, and you can even have a document faxed to some and e-mailed to others. No wonder *PC/Computing* recently said, "The best fax software just got a whole lot better." DELRINA

Delrina, WinFax and Delrina Communications Suite are trademarks of Delrina (Canada) Corporation. WinComm is a trademark of Delrina (Delaware) Corporation. All other product names are copyrights, tradenames, registered tradenames or trademarks of their respective owners. ©1995 Delrina (Canada) Corporation. All rights reserved. PC/Computing quote from 5/94. © Ripley Entertainment Inc.

AT 720 x 720 DPI, THE INK JET WILL





▲ Actual 720 x 720 dpi output from the Epson Stylus Color Ink Jet.

EPSON STYLUS COLOR BLOW YOU AWAY.





The High Definition EPSON Stylus COLOR Ink Jet.

Dazzling color. Near photographic reproduction. That's what sets the High Definition EPSON Stylus COLOR ink jet printer apart from other personal ink jets. As the world's first and only 720 x 720 dpi ink jet, it prints over five times more dots per square inch than the HP DeskJet 560C. And more dots means better looking charts, graphs, pictures and text. Yet at under \$600, it's amazingly affordable.



(6 Nobody believed that this level of quality could get to this price point.))

-BIS Strategic Decisions

The EPSON Stylus COLOR not only prints brilliant color, it also prints razor-sharp black & white. And its unique software driver lets you make onscreen color adjustments, then returns you to your application faster. The EPSON Stylus COLOR blows every other personal ink jet off the page. When you see it for yourself, you'll be blown away, too. For information, visit your EPSON dealer or call the number below.



1-800-BUY-EPSON Ext. 3163

----Your daughter created a

playbook for the high school



Even if you don't have an artistic bone in your body, you'll be drawing all kinds of neat stuff in no time. The kind of stuff you would only be able to create by spending a small fortune on several different drawing programs. And get this, with Visio Home you won't actually be drawing a thing.

Introducing Visio® Home. It's the essential, all-in-one drawing tool for your home PC. With it you can create just about anything you can think of. Even the stuff your dog might dream up. How is this possible, you ask? Visio Home is jam-packed with 30 steneils and over 900 pre-drawn SmartShapes® All you have to do is drag and drop shapes from stencil to page and you're done. It's fun. It's easy. [And isn't life a little better when things are fun and easy?] Normally you'd need stacks of drawing programs to do everything Visio Home does. But for just a few bucks and a few minutes of your time, you'll be ereating maps, science projects, floor



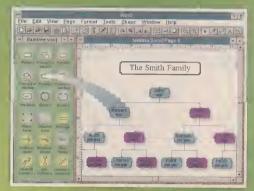
All trademarks referenced herein are held by Shapeware Corp, except for Windows which is a trademark of Microsoft Corp. ©1994 Shapeware Corporation. All rights reserved. plans, ealendars—you name it. So there really is something for everyone in the family. If you're not

family tree. Your son drew a

football team.

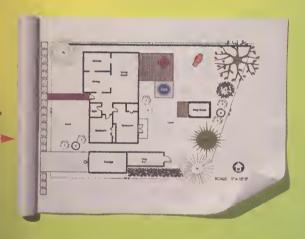
the dog added

a sleeping loft to



So you can't draw your way out of a paper bag. No problem. Using Visio Home is cake. Choose a shape from the stencil. Drag it and drop it on your drawing page. Type to add text. And you're done. In technical terms: Drag. Drop. Done. And if you ever need any help just click on the right mouse button. Pretty nifty stuff, hinh?

his place. Okay, you helped the dog.



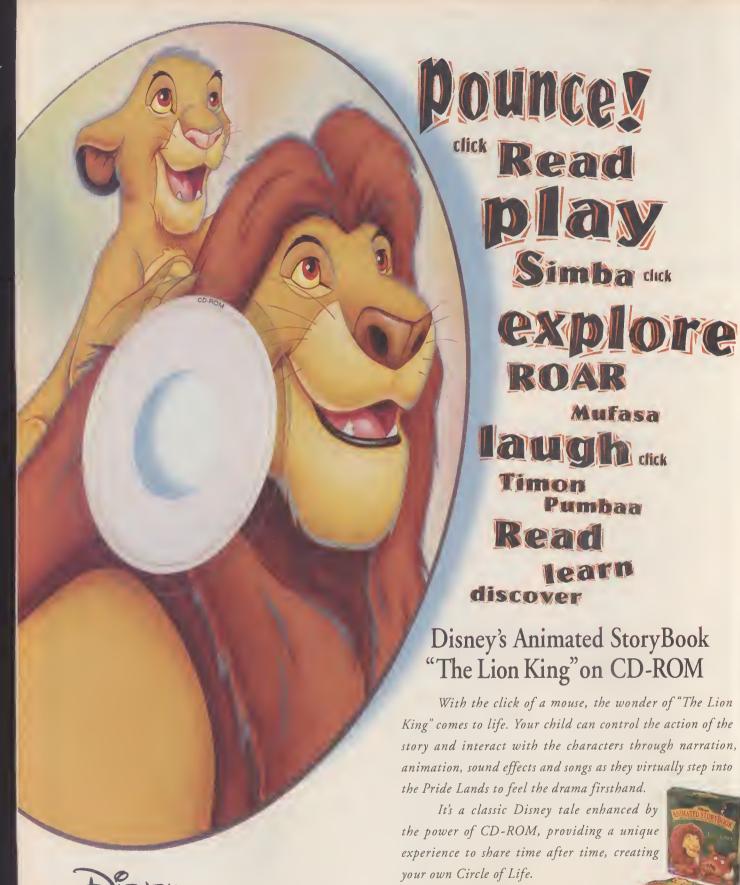
completely, totally, unequivoeally satisfied, there's a 60-day money-back guarantee. You and Visio Home. The possibilities are endless.

Here's the deal. Normally, Visio Home sells for \$79*. Now it's only \$49! To order or get the name of the nearest reseller, call (800) 457-3335, ext. X24. Do it now.

Directional Maps
Home Design
Family Tree
Science Projects
Garden Design
Greeting Cards
Coloring Books
U.S. & World Geography
Football Play Diagrams
Calendars
and lots more



Household drawing for everyone in the house.™



S O F T W A R E

Compatible with IBM/Windows. Macintosh version coming soon.

A free "The Lion King" mouse pad included for a limited time.

© DISNEY

from the editor

To the rest of the world, it must seem like Hollywood is the capital of America. We approach leading entertainers as if they were royalty (and, these days, treat the movements of the Royal Family as prime-time enter-

tainment). Like paparazzi, we chasc after the "inside story" about stars and swallow every tidbit of gossip we can get, whether from *The New York Times* or the *National Enquirer*.

Our passions extend beyond Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts and the other actors we feel we know personally from their performances. We gobble up news about the people behind the



scenes. Tabloids cover the business deals made by Hollywood studio heads as fervently as *The Wall Street Journal* does. People probably know as much about Jeffrey Katzenberg as they do about Al Gore.

When Hollywood talks, people listen. And as computers challenge TV and video for your home entertainment dollars, the buzz in the entertainment industry is interactivity. Studios are racing to link with software developers and bring the excitement of the movies to multimedia products. Turn to this month's cover story, "Hooray for Hollywood?" (page 88) to find out how these two very different businesses are pooling their talents. Will it mean a glamorous new genre of entertainment that appeals to a wide audience of computer owners? Or will

the innovations merely make committed computer gamers happy while the rest of us just keep heading for the multiplex? In this deal, you hold the cards.

We believe it's an important element of all *HomePC* stories to separate hype from reality in matters that affect you. We do it when we review products and challenge the manufacturers' and developers' claims about what their products can do. And we also do it by letting you know that computing, while casier than it used to be, still isn't all that easy.

Take the Internet, for example. Everyone's writing and talking about the vast wealth of information on the "Net" these days, but not spending quite so much time telling you how to get to it. Contributing editor Charles Bowen, who wrote this month's story on using the Inter-

Interactive games make you a 'player' in Hollywood

net (page 116), confesses that

"The Internet has always scared the heck out of me," even after logging thousands of hours on commercial on-line services. But Bowen conquered his fear and was rewarded with hours of fun. He shares his discoveries and the easiest (but still not easy) ways for "Netphobes" to get started.

It doesn't take a genius to figure out why some people are technophobes. I'm sure that by now many of you have come perilously close to giving the new computer (or multimedia kit, or sound card, or printer, or CD-ROM) you received at holiday time a swift kick because it's not doing what you expected it to do. Trust me, I know. I'm totally dependent on my computer, but I've still contemplated tossing it out the window after attempting complicated software installations.

We'd like to know more about the types of computing problems you've run up against. In this month's survey, following page 224, we ask a few questions about the products you bought during the holiday scason and what it's been like to use them so far. You can help us help you



by sending in your responses, which will also qualify you for an upcoming prize drawing. In a future issue, we'll talk about the problems and frustrations you describe and offer possible solutions. (Congratulations to Allen Stewart and Kathy Preston, who each won a 17-inch Mag Innovision monitor in the random drawing of December survey responses.)

The information you provide by answering our monthly surveys gives us valuable insight into your home computing experiences. In the October survey, for instance, we asked you to tell us about your problems shopping for a variety of consumer products (on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the hardest, 5 the easiest). You told us you feel the most difficult computer products to shop for are add-on devices (sound and video boards and cards, disk drives and so on), with a mean shopping difficulty score of 2.9. You saw monitors and printers as the easiest purchases. The most difficult non-computer product to shop for? You said a house; the easiest was a telephone. And how did shopping for a computer compare to shopping for other products? Well, you rated it the same as shopping for a cellular phone, and far more difficult than buying a TV or VCR.

Over time, computers will surely become easier to use. At the winter Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Bill Gates, the founder and CEO of Microsoft, unveiled Bob, the software program with a "social interface," which aims to make it both fun and easy to get things done on your computer (see Hot Stuff! in the February 1995 issue of *HomePC* for a closer look at the program). It's a good indication of software makers' direction.

Next month, HomePC takes you to the year 2005 to show you where experts believe the home computing revolution will go next. One thing is clear: Wherever it all leads, the twists and turns will make fascinating cinema verité. •

Ellen Rearlman

Ellen Pearlman, Editor-in-Chief

Until Now, Sound Cards Have Sounded Flat as a Board.



INTRODUCING THE VIVID 3D PRODUCT FAMILY.

NURE

SURROUND YOURSELF WITH VIVID 3D SOUND AT YOUR PC.

Award-winning Vivid 3D™ sound enhancement systems from NuReality add a new dimension of realism to multimedia sound. With patented

SRS (echnology, Vivid 3D

"(The Vivid 3D) definitely improves the aural excitement of any game...The stereo field appears much wider on stereo soundtracks, while mono sounder and more intense."

—Electronic Entertainment, September 1994

products create amazingly lifelike 3D sound from only 2 speakers! The Vivid 3D

family includes the affordable Vivid







3D™ system which is ideal for realistic game playing, the versatile

"The Vivid 3D Plus is an absolute winner. It's easy to use, reasonably priced, and delivers everything it promises. If you want to enter the world of 3-D sound without scrapping your system or busting your budget, the Vivid 3D Plus is the best way to go."

—Multimedia World, November 1994

Vivid 3D Plus™ which features powerful audio controls and the sophis-

ticated Vivid 3D ProTM which incorporates a built-in amplifier.

COMPATIBLE WITH ALL SOUND BOARDS
AND APPLICATIONS.

Vivid 3D products are fully compatible with the Sound Blaster/AdLib

standard and work with all 8-bit, 16-bit and wavetable sound cards. You can install Vivid 3D products in min-



utes without any software. What's more, Vivid 3D products give you the

EXPERIENCE VIVID 3D SOUND FREE!*

full effect of 3D sound from any mono, stereo or encoded audio source.

And with prices starting under \$100, Vivid 3D

products fit into your budget as easily as they fit into your computer system.

To order your free* demo CD or for more information.

"97/100! ...the Vivid 3D is one of the best applications of an emerging technology that I have ever seen. Old games took on new life." —Computer Game Review, August 1994

call NuReality at **I-800-501-8086**. NuReality, 2907 Daimler St., Santa Ana, CA 92705-5810. Telephone: 714-442-1080, Fax: 714-852-1059.



NUREALITY

Now available at:











VIVID 3D PI

*This specially recorded CD recreates the experience of 3D sound from any CD player. The demo CD is available for a \$5.95 shipping and handling charge which can be fully credited toward the purchase of a Vivid 3D system. This offer applies only to Vivid 3D products purchased directly from NuReality. International orders do not include freight charges, duty or VAT.

The Vivid 3D sound enhancement system won the Retail Vision "Best Product" award in May 1994, and the Innovations award from the International Consumer Electronics Show in June 1994. Vivid 3D systems incorporate SRS technology which won the "Ultimate" award from Game Players magazine in July 1993. © 1994 NuReality. All rights reserved. SRS () a registered trademark of SRS Labs.

All product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders. MM3



It's Perfectly Easy

It's Perfectly Easy



Now you can enter almost anything into your document with a few clicks of the mouse. It's that easy with an HP ScanJet Scanner and PerfectOffice. You can add photos, clip art, pages of text and more in just seconds. HP and PerfectOffice make it easy to create powerful communications and get more done faster.

Some office tasks are easier than working with HP ScanJet Scanners and PerfectOffice™. Lunch, for example.

With HP ScanJet Scanners and PerfectOffice™, the new integrated office suite from WordPerfect®, almost anything — photos, logos, clip art, images, reports, letters, backdated company material, clippings — can be added to your document in seconds. So you can forget cutting and pasting, rekeying text, and having to send time-sensitive projects to outside resources for completion.

Working with an HP ScanJet Scanner and PerfectOffice you can easily create powerful documents and presentations right at your desk.

Okay, so you'll have to lift a finger.

That's about all the effort it takes to develop more effective communications. In literally two or three clicks of the mouse, you can insert pictures or paragraphs directly into your document. You don't even have to leave PerfectOffice. Both HP ScanJet Scanners and PerfectOffice use the TWAIN interface, allowing you to scan from inside your application. There are no cumbersome commands to

easily add color photos

create better communications

ad I words without traine



shorten turnaround times

et more

learn. No extra steps to slow you down. Just follow the prompts and click. That's all there is to it.

Plus, HP ScanJet Scanners and PerfectOffice support many other OLE-compatible software packages.

Scanning was designed to make your life easier. Not more difficult.

HP ScanJet Scanners together with PerfectOffice. It's the perfectly easy solution to getting more done faster --- and creating better communications at the same time.

For a FREE demo disk and solutions brochure, or for more information about HP ScanJet Scanners, call 1-800-SCANJET, ext. 8811.*

For more information about PerfectOffice, call 1-800-451-5151.

WordPerfect Novell Applications Group



Rebate vaild from November 1, 1994 to March 31, 1995 on the HP ScanJet Ilcx Color/Grayscale Scanner.

*In Canada, call 1-800-387-3867, ext. 8811. Limited time offer. U.S. list price, HP ScanJet Ilcx Scanner: \$1,179; HP ScanJet 3p Scanner: \$599. © Copyright 1994 Hewlett-Packard Company. WordPerfect is a registered trademark of Novell, Inc. within the United States and other countries. PerfectOffice is a trademark of Novell, Inc. worldwide. PE# 12424

Now Kids Can Create

Their OWN Electronic Books!

Kids' imaginations go wild as they create interactive, electronic books!



NEC MultiSync 5FGe

INTRODUCING IMAGINATION **EXPRESS!**





INCLUDES A FREE BONUS CD-ROM!



very child has stories. Thousands of them. Now you can watch with delight as your child's OWN stories come to life on-screen as interactive, electronic books!

Imaginations soar when kids use the powerful tools in Imagination Express to produce action-packed, interactive electronic books and beautiful printed works. Imagination Express inspires lots of fun and laughter as kids select background scenery, choose and animate characters, plan the plot,

write the story, narrate the pages, add music, record conversations, and attach

silly or scary sound effects to create amazing adventures.

And the fun is just half the story... Working with Imagination Express, kids develop important language arts and writing skills, too!

As a special introductory offer, Imagination

Express now comes with 2 CD-ROMs—doubling

your child's storytelling power!

Kids of all ages and abilities

(ids can watch and explore their stories on-screen, or print them to share with family and friends.

create everything from simple picture books to elaborate multimedia productions as they explore the "Destination: Neighborhood" and "Destination: Castle" CD-ROMs. The storytelling possibilities are endless!

For Macintosh and Windows CD-ROMs. Additional Imagination Express

Imagination Express and other Edmark software titles are available at Best Buy, CompUSA, Computer City, Egghead Software, Electronics Boutique, Elek-Tek, Fry's Electronics, Imaginarium, LearningSmith, Micro Center, Office Depot,

"Destinations" will be available soon.

Price-Costco, Software, Etc., Wal-Mart and other retail locations.

For more information about Edmark or our products call us at 1-800-691-2986.





"The savings are significant—it paid for itself the first time we used it. Greg Brown, Brown Communications

here's no need to sink your cash into an expensive supply of preprinted forms. With **JetForm BizForms™** every form is instantly available! Simply output your completed form to any Windows® supported laser, ink jet or dot matrix printer, or fax directly to your customers from your PC!

BizForms is like having your own business printshop right inside your PC! With over 100 forms and stationery in more than 40 major categories, BizForms gives you the major business, operational and marketing forms used by small and home businesses in America.

With BizForms it takes just minutes to personal-

ize forms like these...

Time Sheets • Invoices and Statements • Job Proposals • Purchase Orders • Expense Reports . Packing Lists .

Mailing Labels . Letterhead and Envelopes • Gift Certificates • AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

JetForm BizForms™

- Saves You Time
- Saves You Money
- Gives Your Business A Distinctive Personalized lmage

System requirements: Microsoft Windows* 3.1 or higher. 386 machine or higher. 4 MB RAM. 5 MB available hard disk space. 3.5" high density disk drive. VGA or higher resolution monitor. Microsoft Windows* supported mouse and printer "@1994 JetForm Corporation, All rights reserved. JetForm BizForms is a

trademark and JetForm is a registered trademark of JetForm Corporation. All other brands and products are trademarks of their respective owners.

1-800-F

Fax 1-603-924-9441 Or mail the coupon today! Oealers call 1-800-367-6375

Limited Time Offer Call today, and we'll send you JetForm BizForms for only \$69.95

YES! I want big savings on all my business form needs. Please send me JetForm
Riz FormeTM Software on a no-risk trial basis at
the special price of just \$89.95. \$69.95
Method of payment:

☐ Check/Money Order ☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ Am Ex

CARO#	EXP.
SIGNATURE	
NAME	<u> </u>
COMPANY	
ADDDCCC	

CA, IL, IN, MA, TX please add appropriate state and local sales tax. I understand there is an additional charge of \$4.95 for 2 day priority mail delivery per order.

JetForm Corporation Order Processing Dept., P.O. Box 123 Offils Peterborough, NH 03458-9869

Publisher	Dan Schwartz
Editor-in-Chief	
Executive Editor	
Art Director	David Loewy
Fantures Editor	Andrea Linne

Assistant Managing Editor Steven Korn Departments Editor. Melanie Berger Deputy Copy Chief. Jay Blickstein	Assistant Managing Editor Audrey Thompson Articles Editor Jennifer Zaino Articles Editor Maria Behan
Senior Editor/Education	Senior Editor/Entertainment
Assistant Art Director	Senior Production EditorBill Mallon Assistant Production EditorDean Markadakis

Lab Assistant Sun Ying Tam Assistant Editor Jennifer Triverio Editorial Assistant Kathryn Haines On-line Projects ManagerMia DiGiovanni Editorial InternMelissa Gelb

Contributing Editors: Sharon McCoy Bell, Charles Bowen, Warren Buckleitner, Richard Fentz, Carolyn Jabs, Pam Kane, Jeremy Schlosberg

Educational Advisory Board: Sharon McCoy Bell, director of educational technology, New Orleans Public Schools; Ellen Bialo, president, Interactive Educational Systems Design; Warren Buckleitner, editor of The Children's Software Revue; Richard Feutz, manager of training and instruction, Kent (Wash.) School District; Sue Kamp, education project monager, Softwore Publishers Association; Carol Klenow, director of information resources, Oakland Schools, Waterford, Mich.; Nadia Makar, coordinator college/industry relations, Union City (N.J.) Schools; Bernajeen Porter, technical consultant, Colorado Stute Boord of Education; Mary Claire Scanlon, president, Scanlon & Associotes, educational consulting

HomePC would like to hear from you. Send your letters, comments and suggestions to the editor. Need advice? Send your letters to Ask Dr. PC or call our toll-free number listed below. We'll answer as many questions as possible in future issues of HomePC. You can also contact our editors through our America Online interactive area (use first names, followed by HPC). America Online members can reach us by selecting Keyword from the Go To menu and typing HomePC, or clicking on Departments or Go To Main Menu at the bottom of the welcome screen, then clicking on the Newsstand button and then on HomePC. If you would like more information about America Online, call (800) 827-6364.

> Editorial telephone: (516) 562-7673 Dr. PC telephone: (800) DOC-IS-IN Fax: (516) 562-7007

Letters: HomePC 600 Community Drive Manhasset, NY 11030

Consumer Media Group

Vice President/Group Publisher: E. Drake Lundell Design Director: Joe McNeill



CMP Publications, Inc.

President/CEO: Michael S. Leeds President/Publishing: Kenneth D. Cron President/International: Daniel H. Leeds Executive Vice President: Grace Monahan

Chief Financial Officer: Joseph E. Sichler Vice President/Treasurer: Pearl Turner

Sr. Vice President/National Accounts: Jeff Strief Vice President/Product Development: Bob Evans

Co-Chairpersons/Board of Directors: Gerard G. Leeds, Lilo J. Leeds

Subscriber information: To obtain information and/or order a subscription, call (800) 829-0119 or (904) 445-4662, ext. 420. U.S.: One year (12 issues) \$21.97. Two years (24 issues) \$36.97. Canada/Mexico: add \$10 per year for postage. Overseas: add \$18 per year for postage. All foreign orders must be accompanied by payment in U.S. funds. Send address changes to HomePC, P.O. Box 420213, Palm Coast, FL 32142.

For reprints, call (800) 682-4972 or (516) 733-6852. For back issues and articles, call (516) 562-5212. In addition to America Online, HomePC is also available through a variety of electronic services. For more information, call 516-562-7405.

information, call 516-562-7405.
Printed in the U.S.A. Copyright© 1995 by CMP Media, a partnership. All rights reserved. *HomePC* is a trademark of CMP Media, Inc., and is used under license from the owner.

Before buying or installing any product mentioned in this publication, read your owner's manual or ask a salesperson to be sure it's compatible with your current home computer equipment. Neither CMP Media, CMP Publications, Inc., their affiliates, employees or freelancers are responsible for any injury or property damage resulting from the application of any information published by *HomePC*.

We've raised the standard again.

We've got more of what you're looking for.

1110111995	1995 Compton's Interactive	Microsoft® Encarta™ '95	The 1995 Grolier Multimedia
Features	Encyclopedia [™]	Litear (a /)	Encyclopedia™
Total Multimedia Hours	Over 16 hours	Over 10 hours	Over 6 hours
On-line Celebrity Tour Guide	Yes, Patrick Stewart	Ho	No
Total Time of Video Clips with Sound	Over 30 minutes	Les - than 10 minutes	Sym -18 minutes
Timeline Illustrated with Videos & Photos	Yes	No, video= Yes, photo=	Ho, viden Yes photos
Number of Articles	35,000+	26.000+	71.000



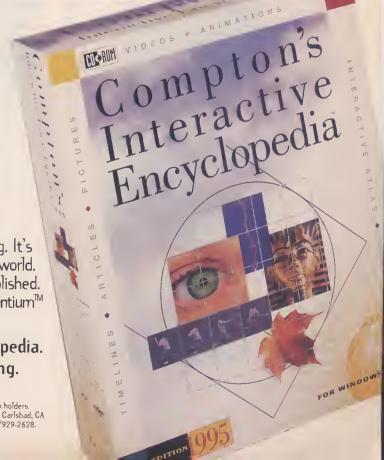
The all new interface is more interactive than ever. You can make your own multimedia show with the Editing Room™. No one else has it!

This is more than a new edition, it's a new everything. It's new sights, new sounds and new ways to explore the world. It's the most amazing encyclopedia anyone's ever published. And it's already here. Also available for the Macintosh®, Pentium™ Processor and Sega CD™.

The new 1995 Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia. It's more than anyone can put in writing.



All trademarks are the property of their respective trademark holders.
©1994 Compton's NewMedia, Inc., 2320 Camino Vida Roble, Carlsbad, CA
92009 800/862-2206. Outside of U.S. and Canada FAX 619/929-2628.



Five ways So multimedia kit your kids'

Your kids will get scholarships.

Multimedia kits from Creative Labs include all you need to turn a PC into an outrageous educational system—speakers, a CD-ROM, a Sound Blaster™ sound card, and lots of the hottest software. Your rug rats could become rocket scientists overnight. In Sound Blaster Digital Schoolhouse,™ you get the most popular educational software. Like Kid Works 2, Stradiwackius, and The Cruncher. Suddenly, math and reading are cooler than Beavis and Butthead.





You'll become smarter and maybe get a better job.

Getting a Sound Blaster upgrade kit for the kids means you learn along with them. Tackle Eagle Eye Mysteries or Wing Commander.

Browse through the talking New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia to sharpen your mind. When the boss overhears you drop a key fact—boom!—that corner office is yours.

3 Use financial software to make shrewd investments.

More than just fun and games, Sound Blaster Edutainment CD™ 16 kit includes smart software too. Like *Quicken Deluxe*, the financial software you use to manage spending and analyze holdings. With *Creative VoiceAssist™* and *Creative Talking Scheduler™* your computer will obey voice commands or remind you of chores. Like counting the money you've saved.





Of course, all Sound Blaster multimedia kits provide 100% Sound Blaster compatibility, technical

und Blaster s help pay for education.



Invest all the money you saved in a T-bill.

With all Creative Labs upgrade kits, you get the best hardware and the coolest software for hundreds less than if purchased separately. Sound Blaster Digital Schoolhouse gives you the best educational titles. Sound Blaster Edutainment $\mathrm{CD}^{\mathsf{TM}}$ 16 includes educational software plus hot games like *Rebel Assault*–42 titles in all. Both come with stereo speakers, a double-speed CD-ROM drive, and the Sound Blaster 16-bit sound card. There's even a Sound Blaster Edutainment $\mathrm{EZ}^{\mathsf{TM}}$ 16 available as a single-slot external drive solution.

You stay home more often, so you save money.

When multimedia joins the family, nobody leaves the house. Hours are spent with SeaWolf, Links, and 3D Dinosaur Adventure.

Instead of going to the movies, you're making movies. Mom's got the mike. Billy has the joystick. Dad's playing Woolly Bully on the keyboard. You're silly. You're happy. You haven't spent a dime in months.



Sound Blaster Digital Schoolhouse™ Sound Blaster 16 stereo sound card Double-speed internal CD-ROM drive Stereo speakers

Includes these educational titles:
Kid Works 2
Spell It 3
The Cruncher
Stradiwackius
Peter Pan: A Story Painting Adventure
Eagle Eye Mysteries
Gus Goes To CyberTown
The New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia
Speed
3D Dinosaur Adventure

Plus nine other software titles!



Sound Blaster Edutainment CD** 16 Sound Blaster 16 stereo sound Card Double-speed internal CD-ROM drive Stereo speakers

Includes these popular titles:
Rebel Assault
Links
SSN-21 SeaWolf
Wing Commander
Pagan: Ultima VIII
The New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia
3D Dinosaur Adventure
Aldus PhotoStyler SE
Quicken Deluxe CD-ROM
Creative VoiceAssist
Plus 32 other software titles!

elp, and easy installation. So visit your nearest Creative Labs dealer. Or call 1-800-998-5227 Ext. 106.



WHEN YOU BUY A COMPUTER, DON'T MAKE YOUR CHILDREN PAY FOR THE MONITOR.



When you chaose the ideal system for your

hame, dan't averlaak the mast abvious component: The monitor. Computer campanies will frequently include a low-quality monitor, which makes a

a lot harder to live with.

complete system easier to buy. But

If you chose your monitar as carefully as the

rest af your system, it would prabably aak like

the Nakia 17" 447L multimedia manitar.

With a .28 mm dot pitch flat square tube and maximum resolution of 1024 x 768 at a refresh rate af 75 Hz, the 447L is the caliber of display usually enjoyed by graphics profes-

sianals. In fact, Nokias have been named a

Nokia is Finland's largest

multinational campany, and the leading brand of manitars in

PC Magazine Editors' Choice and an Experts' Pick in Windows Sources. So the 447L is particularly suitable for the grophics-rich programs fomilies tend to run. The 447L also features front panel solid-state screen adjustments and stereo powered speakers under the bezel—ideal for multimedia software. Which brings us to the most important consideration.

Children now spend long hours with their young eyes just inches away from monitor screens. Here the 447L shows its real value. Its emissions control hos eorned Sweden's MPRII certification—one of the strictest standards in the world. Its ergonomics reduce eyestrain and fatigue, and demonstrate real user-sensitivity.*

The environmental values of Finland (where

 MAXIMUM REFRESH RATE FOR EACH RESOLUTION

 RESOLUTION
 640x480
 800x600
 1024x768

 447L—17"
 80Hz
 80Hz
 75Hz

the 447L is made) show throughout

the system: From no CFCs or formaldahyde in the materials (which eliminates hormful goses) right

down to using recycled paper in the pockoging.

Not only is the 447L friendlier to users, it won't clash with the furniture



Nokia makes speakers for German luxury cars, so adding them to the 447L was easy.

either-thanks to the EuroPolette[™] choice of colors.

And with its suggested retail price of \$699**,

it won't even disturb the family budget.

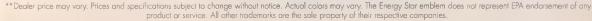
So look into the 447L. After all: It's a decison your family will be looking into for years to come.

Call 1.800.BY NOKIA for the location of the dealer nearest you.



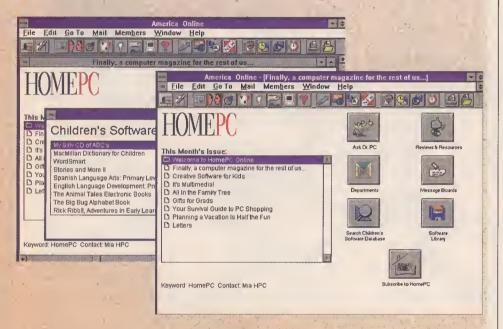


Now available at CompUSA





Keep in touch with HOMEPC editors through America Online



Ask hardware, software and online questions and share valuable insight into your own PC experiences. America Online provides a perfect forum for you to communicate interactively with *HomePC* editors and other readers.

Through America Online, the nation's fastest-growing provider of consumer online services, subscribers can access current and back-issue editorial content from *HomePC*. Post messages for editors, find out about the best children's software, and access the latest product reviews.

You'll get all the information you need to use your PC for entertainment, education, finance and personal productivity. All at the touch of a button.

HOMEPC



Contact HomePC editors through the America Online interactive area using the editor's first name followed by HPC. America Online members can reach HomePC by selecting Keyword from the GoTo menu and typing HomePC, or clicking on the Departments button of the welcome screen, then clicking on the Newsstand button and then on HomePC. If you would like information about America Online, call 800-827-6364.

HOMEPC

a **cmp** publication @

Vice President/Group Publisher: E. Drake Lundell

Publisher: Dan Schwartz 600 Community Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030 516-562-5750; Fax: 516-562-7665

Associate Publisher/West: Cene Burns 2800 Campus Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403 415-525-4466; Fax: 415-525-4446

Eastern Regional Manager/Mid-Atlantic/Southeast: Pete Beckenbach 3 Park Avenne, New York, NY 10010 212-592-8436; Fax: 212-592-8444 Account Executive: Patricia Berg 516-562-7717

Northern California: Carla Daiss 2800 Campus Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403 415-525-4465; Fax: 415-525-4446 Account Executive: Guy Zerega 516-562-7706

Southern California: Catherine Davenport 1849 Sawtelle Boulevard, Suite 650, Los Angeles, CA 90025 310-473-9641; Fax: 310-477-3615 Account Executive: Ted Olczak 516-562-7718

New England: Cina Ciampa 300 Fifth Avenue, 5th Floor, Waltham, MA 02154 617-487-7512; Fax: 617-487-7599 Account Executive: Patricia Berg 516-562-7717

Midwest/Texas: Rick Burísh 225 North Michigan Avenne, Suite 2516, Clucago, IL. 60601 312-946-6600; Fax: 312-565-5943 Account Executive: Ed Rogers 516-562-7722

Northwest: Sharon Moss 320 108th Avenue, Bellevue, WA 98004 206-688-9956; Fax: 206-451-4797 Account Executive: Guy Zerega 516-562-7706

The HomePC Connection/Classified Advertising: 516-562-7173; Fax: 516-562-7665 Sales Representative: Robbin Siegel 600 Community Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030

Customer Service/Display Advertising/ Space Reservations: 516-562-7661; Fax: 516-562-5196 Manager: Fay Gelles Senior Advertising Coordinator: Denise Foley

Executive Assistant: Judy Condon

Group Production Manager: Anthony L. Strianse Production Manager: Janet Schneider

Director of Business Planning and Circulation: Harold Buckley Associate Circulation Director: Kathleen Shay Newsstand Manager: Peter J. Birmingham Business Manager: Ken Gallagher Senior Researeh Manager: Michael P. DeMilt Marketing Manager: Mary Zagrobelny Art Director: Hanna J. Packer

Jeanne Jarvis-Meara
Conference Group Director: Peter Brunold
Director of Customer Service: Georgette Ross
Vice President/Manufacturing:
Stephen J. Grande

Director of Human Resources:

Product Development Manager: Nancy Trespasz Columnist & Strategie Adviser: Mark Stahlman **DELORME MAPPING**

NEVER GET LOST AGAIN!

Fire up the world's most detailed and fun, fascinating and practical mapping software on your computer—and plan your next trip, locate an old flame or explore the whole world!



Maputo

"CD-ROM TITLE OF THE YEAR!" -CD-ROM Professional

Take the guesswork out of planning your next trip! Map'n'Go links computer technology with detailed travel information—maps covering 1

million miles of roads; listings of hotels, inns and campgrounds; restaurant reviews; and sightseeing attractions throughout North America—complete with multimedia pictures and narration. Once you've planned your trip, Map'n'Go prints out a personalized map of your route oriented in the correct direction of travel! Includes a 128-page, full-color North America road atlas—absolutely free! CD-ROM for Windows. ONLY \$49 DIRECT



Street Atlas USA

"IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT, GET IT" -Byte

Find any street in the country with the blink of an eye. Print detailed maps of any city, town or off-the-beaten-track boondocks in the entire United States. Search for locations by placename, zip code, telephone

exchange or street name, and zoom in and out with ease. CD-ROM for Windows and Macintosh. NOW ONLY \$79 DIRECT



Global Explorer

"DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT GLOBAL EXPLORER" -PC/Computing

Explore the earth with the most detailed world atlas ever produced—a virtual computer globe more than 260 feet around! Includes topographic maps of the world and street maps of 100 major cities. Call up

fascinating descriptions of historical, cultural, social and geographic features, and travel the world on a network of airline routes. CD-ROM for Windows. NOW ONLY \$59 DIRECT



Pick up these packages today at your favorite retail store!

Or direct from DeLorme at 1-800-452-5931, ext. 8199

30-day money-back guarantee on direct purchases

We're thrilled the Quigly's think so highly of their new Quantex.



COMPUTER SHOPPER

"The Quantex QP5/90PM-2 is as close to a turnkey multi-media PC as any machine we've seen." (11/94)





OCT. 94



NOV. 94



DEC. 94



JAN. 95





O.K, O.K, so maybe the "Q" does stand for Quigly. But the fact still remains that families really do get into their Quantex systems. Quantex offers you incredible performance. All the latest features and proven technology. Plus the newest easy-touse software packages like WordPerfect Main Street. Whether it's for business, entertainment or education, Quantex makes it exciting, easy and affordable. Just what the Quigly's and you are looking for. Quantex. The latest household word.





Quantex. The Latest Household Word

















Q486DX2/66

\$1699

- Intel DX2 66MHz Processor
- 8MB RAM, 128KB Fast Cache
- 540MB 12ms IDE Hard Drive
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 64-Bit PCI Bus Graphics Engine w/ 1MB
- PCI Local Bus IDE Controller
- 15" Digital .28mm Flat Color Monitor
- 11-Bay Mid-Tower Case
- 101-Key enhanced keyboard & Mouse
- 14,400 Baud Fax/Modem w/software
- Quad-Speed CD-ROM Drive (600KB/Sec)
- 16-Bit Stereo Sound Card w/Speakers
- MS-DOS & Windows for Workgroups 3.11
- Quicken Special Edition financial manager
- CD Discs: Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia 95, Dragon Lore, Mayo Clinic Family Health Book, Card Shop Plus Deluxe, and WordPerfect MainStreet Select
- Prodigy, CompuServe and America On-Line*

Some software packaging may be cosmetically different than pictures shown. Main Street Select includes Works, Infocentral, Grammatik, Random House Webster's School & Office Dictionary, Wallobee Jack "The Lost Lionardo". *One months free trial membership to Prodigy, CompuServe and America



QP5/75

\$1999

- Intel 75MHz Pentium[™] Processor
- 8MB RAM, 256KB Fast Cache
- 850MB 10ms IDE Hard Drive
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 64-Bit PCI Bus Graphics Engine w/ 1MB
- PCI Local-Bus IDE Controller
- 15" Digital .28mm Flat Color Monitor
- 11-Bay Mid-Tower Case
- 101-Key enhanced keyboard & Mouse
- 14,400 Baud Fax/Modem w/software
- Quad-Speed CD-ROM Drive (600KB/Sec)
- 16-Bit Stereo Sound Card w/Speakers
- MS-DOS & Windows for Workgroups 3.11
- Quicken Special Edition financial manager
- CD Discs: Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia 95, Dragon Lore, Mayo Clinic Family Health Book, Card Shop Plus Deluxe, and WordPerfect MainStreet Select
- Prodigy, CompuServe and America On-Line*

OP5/100 S2449

The home is where the heart is. And Quantex wants to be at the heart of *your* home. You'll cheer the smooth video performance, applaud the colorful animation, and dive deep into a sea of information with a **Quad-Speed CD-ROM**. Smiles will spread wide, as crisp sound streams through stereo speakers and on-line services come alive. Quantex has made these multimedia systems easy for everyone in your house to use and share--to bring your family closer together!

Dad just finished using Quicken for tax tips that'll help pay for the family trip Mom's planning with the Everywhere USA
Travel Guide. Soon she'll check the kid's health records with the Mayo Clinic Family Health Book and whip up a "Thank You" card for her office party with CardShop Plus Deluxe.

After that, the kids are going to play Dragon Lore--after all, they were able to get their homework done faster (and better) with CIE '95 and the great software in WordPerfect Main Street, featuring Works, Infocentral, Grammatik, Random House Dictionary and lots more!

A Quantex Multimedia system is designed to be a member of the family for a long time. One-Year Free Parts and Labor plus One-Year On-Site service means that we'll fix it free! Add our 30-day Money Back Guarantee plus toll-free technical support for as long as you own your Quantex, so you know that you can rest assured. You even have the option to extend your system's protection with the 4 year GE Service Protection PlusTM plan. Give one of our sales reps a call for full details.

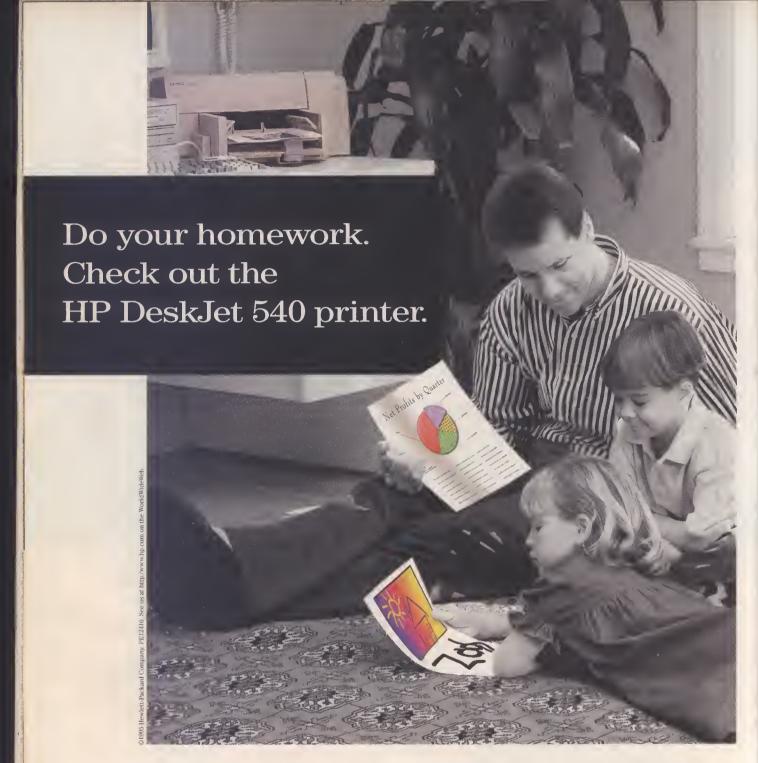


1 - 8 0 0 - 6 4 4 - 4 6 7 0



400B Pierce Street, Somerset, NJ 08873

Line. Call for details regarding Quantex's money-back guarantee, warranty, and 4-year on-site service option. On-Site Service may not be available in certain remote areas. All uned items must have a Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) number and must be in original packaging. The cost for returned freight is not included with any Money-Back arantees; shipping charges are non-refundable. Prices and product descriptions subject to change without notice. Quantex Microsystems cannot be responsible for errors in typogly or photography. Due to volatility of prices, Quantex does not offer a price protection policy. The Intel inside Logo, IntelDX2, and Pentium are trademarks of Intel Corporation of the names or trademarks shown herein may be the property of other companies. Screen images simulated. Quantex 1995. All Rights Reserved.







Now you can please all the people all the time. The HP DeskJet 540 printer has something for everyone in your family.

- Easy, snap-in-and-print color with the optional HP Color Kit.
- Quiet, compact and durable.
- Simple and easy to use.
- Clear, sharp, 600 x 300-dpi black & white.

- Prints on everything from legal-size to postcards.
- Compatible with all the popular software.

HP Printers



letters



Take a Quicken inventory

Your December 1994 Financial Adviser column makes much ado about the home-inventory module in Intuit's Quicken Deluxe 4 for Windows. I can only hope that version 4 offers a restore option for the user's home-inventory data in the event of a fire or some other emergency, because Quicken Deluxe 3 does not. I can't say enough good things about the rest of the program, but I felt ripped off when my hard drive crashed a few months ago and I was unable to restore all my home-inventory information.

I will not consider upgrading until I can confirm that the new Deluxe + version of Quicken offers the home-inventory restore option.

> Dan Mays Davenport, Iowa via America Online

Editor's reply: Quicken Deluxe 4 for Windows offers both a backup option and a restore option. In addition, an official at Intuit told us that even if you don't back up your files, if a message appears on your screen telling you that your home-inventory file has been corrupted, you can call Intuit's technical support line and simply make arrangements to send back the corrupted file. The company says it will restore the missing information at no cost to von. The Intuit representative also told us that it is possible to restore this data in Quicken Deluxe 3 using DOS, but that some people found the method too confusing.

Dive into the archives

The first issue of my subscription eontained two letters to the editor that mentioned articles I had missed but wanted to see-"Backup! Backup! Backup!" from November '94, and "Memory Not Ineluded" from December. I intended to send a message on America Online to inquire how to get eopies of the articles, but found that I could just download them from your forum on AOL. What a great service! I'm hooked. Any other way of subscribing to a magazine and communicating with the editors is like living in the Dark Ages.

> Susan Robins Van Nuys, Calif. via America Online

Doc gets a second opinion

As a new subscriber, I really like what I've seen in my first two issues. Some of the hints and how-to's you give are very helpful!

However, in your December '94 issue, your Dr. PC attempts to tell a reader how to boot to DOS instead of Windows. I believe the instructions are vague at best, and would confuse a beginner. Plus, it isn't necessary to enter the DOS editor to edit *autoexec.bat* or *config.sys*; any ASCII-format word processor is just as good.

Besides, if someone tries that with a system prior to DOS 4—that is, typing *edit* at the DOS prompt—they're likely to be in a world of trouble when they find they are unable to leave the DOS edit program without rebooting!

Bill Dortch Paris, Tenn.

Dr. PC's reply: In vecent DOS versions, the editor command is an excellent tool for editing system files. Often, it's easier for people to figure out this tool than to save a word processing file as plain ASCII text.

I agree that the DOS edlin, or ed, command, which was the text editor prior to DOS Version 5, is really confusing. Anyone with an older system who is familiar with lus or her word processing program can try saving a file as "Text," "Text Only" or "ASCH." If you can clearly read what you saved using the DOS type command, you've saved it correctly.

If you have a version of DOS later than 5, try the edit command and see how you like it.

More ink on printers

In your evaluation of printers (Consumer Lab, January 1995, page 171), you did not indicate speed in either pages per minute (ppm) or characters per second



(eps), nor did you indicate the average life expectancy of the ink and toner cartridges, which is sometimes rated as cost per page.

When buying a printer, the prices of the printer and the media (ink, toner), the speed in pps or cps, and the cost per page are key factors. These considerations, of course, must be balanced against print quality and the reputation of the manufacturer regarding service and reliability.

James M. Colvin Menomonie, Wis.

I recently received your January issue and couldn't put it down!

I was particularly interested in the Consumer Lab on printers. I purchased a Canon BJ-200e with

MORE FACTS. MORE FUN!

It's like being let loose in a new car showroom! The Ford Simulator 6.0 gives you access to the options, leasing and purchase prices for 1995 Ford and Lincoln-Mercury vehicles. Plus the challenging Lake Wakatonka driving game. Simply fill out and return the order form below. Any questions? Call toll-free I-800-322-1786.

	/	TAG -
The Ford Simulator 6.0 so program requires an IBM patible PC with 640K RA or SVGA color graphics.	or com-	A A
Ordering Information	Qty.	Total
1 ☐ DOS VGA Capabilities \$7.00 : 2 ☐ Windows VGA Capabilities \$7.00 : 3 ☐ CD ROM SVGA Capabilities \$9.00 :	x =	
Enclosed is my check or \$ made payab Available for U.S. and Caonly. Canadian shipment	le to Ford madian shi	Simulator. pments
Return order form and p Ford Simulator, P.O. Box MI 48121-6216.		arborn,
Please bill my 🔲 VIS	A 🗆 М	asterCard
CARD NUMBER		
/ /		
EXPIRATION DATE	SIGN	NTURE
NAME ON CARD		
NAME		
STREET ADDRESS		
CITY S	TATE	ZIP
		Fixed

my Compaq computer system, and was somewhat surprised that this printer was given such a high overall rating by your testers, for two reasons: First, my printer refuses to print envelopes—despite several hours on the telephone with both Compag and Canon technical support, and then finally sending the printer to a repair center after only five months. No one yet has been able to correct this problem. Second, I consistently find that the ink smudges. If you touched the ink on this letter with damp hands, it would probably still smudge, even though it's a few days old.

Thank you for publishing such an enjoyable magazine!

Mary H. Bell Simpsonville, S.C.

Fueling up for a launch

HomePC is the most informative computer magazine I have ever had the pleasure of reading. By guiding me in finding software, you have given me the ammunition I need to start my own business at home. As long as you continue to print such informative issues, I will enjoy reading your magazine.

Bobby Belle Phoenix, Ariz.

Software tips are tops

I am not a novice to computing, and find software reviews far more valuable than information on how a computer works. I have enjoyed your first few issues and look forward to many more. I find the information to be meaningful rather than technical like that in other [computer] publications. Keep the software reviews coming!

Steven J. Lewis Williamsburg, Va. via America Online

Bring the whole family

We would like to thank you for producing the best computer magazine we have ever read. My husband is finishing up a degree in computer systems technology, and I am back in college working on a business administration degree. We have a 486DX/33 IBM-compatible

computer with a CD-ROM drive. So far I have learned WordPerfect, Quattro Pro, Paradox and MS-DOS, and [the computer] has been invaluable, enabling me to do my homework at home.

We especially appreciated the January story on businesses built around the home computer because my husband is interested in starting a consulting and/or repair business. We'd love to see more articles on that subject. After reading your magazine, we're also getting more curious about the Internet. Maybe someday we'll check that out, too.

Our children—a girl, 12, and a boy, 10—use the PC to play games, do their homework, and create cards and posters with the graphics program. Your magazine has something for everyone in our family.

Christina Willow (Address not given)

Windows pains

I am enjoying my *HomePC* subscription very much. Ask Dr. PC and Nuts + Bolts have been the sections most helpful to me so far. I eagerly look forward to each issue.

There is one thing that concerns me, though: I notice that much of the software now on the market is usable only if one has Windows. That leaves me out, and I am wondering if in the near future I will be forced to install Windows in order to stay in operation. Hope not!

Harvey Headley Louisville, Ky.

How to contact us:

We want to hear from you! Send your letters to:

Letters to the Editor HomePC 600 Community Drive Manhasset, NY 11030

You can also fax your comments to us at (516) 562-7007 or send electronic mail to HomePC on America Online or to homepc@aol.com using any other on-line service.

Please include your name, address and phone number. All correspondence becomes the property of HomePC and may be edited for length and content.

SO4PC1



a computer last longer than the stuff in your freezer?

Computer technology isn't frozen in time. If you're thinking of getting a home computer, it's only natural to worry about how long that computer will last.

That's why Apple designed one with everything you need now and everything you'll want later: Macintosh® Performa®



A computer that's here to stay.

First of all, a Performa will always be able to do what it can do today. Which is to say, just about everything.

It comes with up to 21 programs preinstalled. Right out of the box, Performa makes it easy for your kids to write reports and for you to bring work home from the office or balance a household budget.

When you want to do new things, you can choose from thousands of business, educational and fun programs. (More schools and homes use Apple computers than any other brand, which means there

will always be plenty of new and innovative software for you to explore.)

A computer that's here to grow.

Apple's "plug-and-play" philosophy of personal computing is unique.

Need a printer? Just plug one in. Need more storage space? Just plug in a new hard drive. It's easy to expand your Performa's capabilities, today, tomorrow or years down

> the road. (You can even add the sizzling new PowerPC™ chip.)

Science Project #3

How mold grows.



pioce conserve and 4 get control beneat for 3 who suff on the fings on coloubly size in the 3 were or enable is motion. And then sets day a most early them, control what we set and this apprecial the list and 1T WAS 50 COCKSS¹. The notion was all level the for shoreout level prop fact. Here and the most get in there? Do it strain as a high and life the skilled has fine most started as model.

most situated is enabled cells.

One day someouth recket distal thems sharped over the second of all thems sharped over the second of all thems sharped over the second of all themselves wereast raisery place at all themselves over the second of all the second of all themselves over the second of all themselves over the second of all themselves over the second of all themselves

braid se if it freque ton Andique ton Andi

So you don't have to worry about a Performa becoming

obsolete. You don't have to worry about service and support, either—a full year of in-home service and a lifetime of toll-free telephone support are included.

In other words, a Performa will last at least as long as a frozen meat loaf. Which, as you know, is a long, long, long time.





Back-UPS prevail



"All other brands of UPS die regularly in this lightning prone environment. My APC won't die!" said Paul Sisilli, Systems Analyst, City of Port St. Lucie . "With other brands, users don't find out until it is too late. The power interruptions here are very hard to live with. The other brands are dying off. Typically they last just beyond their warranty period. My Back-UPS is going on three years...no other brand is as reliable."

If you're protecting a network server, a communications interface port (on models Back-UPS 400 and higher) provides the security of an automatic shutdown to all major OS including NetWare, Windows, Windows NT, LAN Server, LAN Manager, LAN tastic, SCO Unix, OS/2, Banyan Vines, AppleShare/System7 and more, so your data is safe whether the system is attended or not. (PowerChute software and interface kits sold separately.)

And since data processed on networked clients needs protection too, the \$139 Back-UPS 280 provides an economical solution for all your LAN workstations. And if you have a new green PC, the price is even better



Don Truax knows first hand about Back-UPS reliability: "It ought to be against the law to buy a computer without an APC Back-UPS 250. I recently had a direct lightning hit right outside the house...my computer never blinked. Each morning I get a surge down the line and both APC's hate it - they simultaneously 'holler'n clamp' while my 'Brand T' quietly sleeps in. I've relegated that unit to non-critical household stuff like my VCR."



Andrew Wargo, Manager at Baxter Land Company, tried two other brands before Back-UPS. "One lasted a few days, a second one went up in smoke after 48 hours, a third lasted less than 24 hours! I then bought my Back-UPS for less than half of what I bad paid for the others. We've purchased three more Back-UPS and for the past 14 months they've been just hummin' away on the same power line that was eating the other brands alive!"



APC has won more awards for performance and reliability than all other UPS vendors combined...including five consecutive LAN Times Readers Choice awards...









can be hard...if you wait for the next storm to roll through. But discovering how afford-

AWARD-WINNING FEATURES

Instantaneous backup power beats blackouts and brownouts

Unmatched lightning (tested to UL1449) and surge protection for maximum hardware safety

Network-grade line conditioning and EMI/ RFI filters prevent glitches

LAN Interface (on Back-UPS 400 and up) provides automatic shutdown to all major OS: Windows, NT, NetWare, LAN Server, LAN Manager, LANtastic, Unix, OS/2, Vines, AppleShare/System7 and more.

Site diagnostics automatically spot missing ground and reversed polarity, two common miswirings which usually require an electrician's visit to diagnose.

Option switches allow you to customize transfer voltage and alarm settings.

Test Switch for ongoing peace of mind.

2 year warranty and full safety approvals including ISO9001.

\$25,000 Lifetime Equipment Protection

Hot Swappable, User Replaceable Batteries reduce service time, costs by allowing safe removal and replacement of exhausted batteries, while your system stays running.



APC

MERICAN POWER CONVERSION 300-800-4APC

PE (+33) 64625900 / ASIA/PACIFIC FAX: (+813) 5295-1989 ICA FAX: 401-789-9771 / Compuserve: GO APCSUPPORT nternet: tech@apctech.UUCP or uunetlapctech!techs

Dept. 01

When all else fails,

Starting at \$119

here are three types of computer users: those who have lost data due to a power problem, those who are going to, and those who have protected themselves against the inevitable surge, blackout or brownout with the most reliable UPS they can buy: Back-UPS by APC. In fact, editors and users alike agree that if your system demands absolute reliability, you can depend on APC Back-UPS.

According to a study by Bell Labs, undervoltages represent the overwhelming majority of power problems likely to hit your computer. The question is not if a failure will occur, but when. Whether due to construction, wiring, weather, other office

APC Voted most reliable by 3-to-1

Tripp

Best



In a recent poll by PC Magazine's MagNet, APC was voted the most reliable UPS manufacturer by a 3-to-1 margin. That's dependability that will see you through years of unmatched power protection.

equipment, or accidents, power problems are as inevitable as death and taxes. That's why you need instantaneous battery backup power from the Back-UPS to prevent data loss, hard disk crashes, and hardware damage.

If you're concerned about lightning, rest assured that when measured using the ANSI/IEEE 587 Category A test wave, Back-UPS are superior to virtually all separate surge suppressors. Surge performance is even backed by a \$25,000 Lifetime Equipment Protection Guarantee.

MAGAZINE UKEDITORS UKCHOICE

"The clear winner in price performance...it's unbeatable..."

August 1993 APC Back UPS 1250

Back-UPS

Name _____

City____

State ____Zip

Phone _

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 36 WEST KINGSTON, RI

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

APC

MERICAN POWER CONVERSION

132 Fairgrounds Road P.O. Box 278

West Kingston, RI 02892-9920

LIFETIME EQUIPMENT PROTECTION

\$25,000

S1 41 (set, s. 150 over 100 received in the set of the set

Back-UPS prevail



"All other brands of UPS die regularly in this lightning prone environment. My APC won't die!" said Paul Sisilli, Systems Analyst, City of Port St. Lucie. "With other brands, users don't find out until it is too late. The power interruptions here are very hard to live with. The other brands are dying off. Typically they last just beyond their warranty period. My Back-UPS is going on three years...no other brand is as reliable."

If you're protecting a network server, a communications interface port (on models Back-UPS 400 and higher) provides the security of an automatic shutdown to all major OS including NetWare, Windows, Windows NT, LAN Server, LAN Manager, LAN tastic, SCO Unix, OS/2, Banyan Vines, AppleShare/System7 and more, so your data is safe whether the system is attended or not. (PowerChute software and interface kits sold separately.)

And since data processed on networked clients needs protection too, the \$139 Back-UPS 280 provides an economical solution for all your LAN workstations. And if you have a new green PC, the price is even better

at \$119 for the new Back-UPS 200.

Discovering how essential Back-UPS protection is



Don Truax knows first hand about Back-UPS reliability: "It ought to be against the law to buy a computer without an APC Back-UPS 250. I recently had a direct lightning hit right outside the house...my computer never blinked. Each morning I get a surge down the line and both APC's hate it - they simultaneously 'holler' 'n clamp' while my 'Brand T' quietly sleeps in. I've relegated that unit to non-critical household stuff like my VCR."



Andrew Wargo, Manager at Baxter Land Company, tried two other brands before Back-UPS. "One lasted a few days, a second one went up in smoke after 48 hours, a third lasted less than 24 hours! I then bought my Back-UPS for less than half of what I had paid for the others. We've purchased three more Back-UPS and for the past 14 months they've been just hummin' away on the same power line that was eating the other brands alive!"



2,000,000
Satisfied Users

APC has won more awards for performance and reliability than all other UPS vendors combined...including five consecutive LAN Times Readers Choice awards...

PC World Top 20 Upgrade







can be hard...if you wait for the next storm to roll through. But discovering how affordable it has become is easy...

Call today and find out (the easy way) why more than 2,000,000 satisfied users bank on Back-UPS from APC. With more awards than all other brands combined, field-proven reliability, and a two year warranty, Back-UPS are power protection you can purchase with confidence.



Back-l	UPS (L to R) Application Su	gg. List
200	Green PCs, small desktop systems	\$119
280	Desktop systems, LAN nodes, POS	\$139
400	Desktop 486, 386 systems, servers	\$199
450	Tower 486, 386 systems, servers	\$254
600	Heavily configured systems, CAD/	
	CAM workstations	\$359
900	Multiple systems, longer runtime	\$529
	applications	
1250	Multiple systems, LAN hubs,	

small minis, telecom equipment





\$689



AWARD-WINNING FEATURES

Instantaneous backup power beats blackouts and brownouts

Unmatched lightning (tested to UL1449) and surge protection for maximum hardware safety

Network-grade line conditioning and EMI/ RFI filters prevent glitches

LAN Interface (on Back-UPS 400 and up) provides automatic shutdown to all major OS: Windows, NT, NetWare, LAN Server, LAN Manager, LANtastic, Unix, OS/2, Vines, AppleShare/System7 and more.

Site diagnostics automatically spot missing ground and reversed polarity, two common miswirings which usually require an electrician's visit to diagnose.

Option switches allow you to customize transfer voltage and alarm settings.

Test Switch for ongoing peace of mind.

2 year warranty and full safety approvals including ISO9001.

\$25,000 Lifetime Equipment Protection

Hot Swappable, User Replaceable Batteries reduce service time, costs by allowing safe removal and replacement of exhausted batteries, while your system stays running.



AMERICAN POWER CONVERSION 800-800-4APC

APC EUROPE (+33) 64625900 / ASIA/PACIFIC FAX: (+813) 5295-1989
L. AMERICA FAX: 401-789-9771 / Compuserve: GO APCSUPPORT
Internet: tech@apctech.UUCP or uunetlapctech!techs

Aptiva. The new multimedia family computer from IBM.



The IBM Aptiva family of home computers has the power, spacious hard drives (up to 727MB), and multimedia capabilities to be all things to all members of your family.

foremost universities.

Meanwhile, manage

your finances pain-

lessly with Quicken®

(included with every

Aptiva). Or make

the office.

short work of files

you bring home from

play doesn't suit you

the latest 3-D game

worlds with Aptiva.

Or play music CDs

while you work in

another program.

or the Aptiva. Explore

All work and no

With Aptiva's double-speed CD-ROM drive and resources like Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia™, your kids can stay ahead of the class. Using Aptiva's data/fax modem, they can even make quick excursions on the Internet to the databanks of America's

The Aptiva Multimedia PC

The 530 system

- Intel[®] i4B6™DX2/66MHz microprocessor
- BMB RAM (up to 12BMB)
- 424MB* IDE hard drive
- BKB internal cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB floppy drive
- 101-key IBM Keyboard and IBM Mouse
- Internal data/fax modem
- Two serial, one parallel port
- Four slots, four bays
- Voice recognition capability
 Exclusive Rapid Resume energy-saving, Energy Starcompliant technology with
- "Wake Up On Ring" feature
 Upgradable to Pentium™
 technology

For multimedie

- Double-speed CD-ROM drive
- Aria® 16 Wavetable audio card
- Two 30-watt digital speakers
- MIDI/game port

For better graphics performance

- IBM 0.28 15" SVGA color monitor (14" diagonal viewing area)
- Local bus video
- 1M8 video RAM

The preloaded softwere

- Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia, The Discoverers, Undersea Adventure™, MCS MusicRack™, Music Mentor™, Recording Session™, IBM Photo Display, IBM Aptiva PC Multimedia Exploration, Monologue for Windows™, Sound Blaster Utilities™
- The Disney® Preview of 11
 Disney software titles, including
 Animation Studio and Aladdin
 Print Kit (worth \$299 for only
 \$79 when you call for the
 unlocking code)
- IBM PC DOS 6.3, Microsoft® Windows 3.11, PFS: Window-Works™, Quicken Special Edition, Reuters® Money™ Network, FaxWorks™, The PRDDIGY® Service with IBM Club™o, Journalist™, America Online®4, IBM Connection™, IBM Online Housecall (online diagnostics)

For support

- 1-B00 product support line
- 3-year limited warranty (1 year for monitor/software) with IBM Express Maintenance¹
- 30-day moneyback guarantee from IBM PC Direct¹

Better yet, create your own music in Aptiva's recording studio.

It's so easy to use.

With IBM's exclusive Rapid
Resume™ technology, you won't
have to wait for your PC to "boot up."
When you turn it on, your Aptiva quickly
restarts with your Windows™ files and
applications open exactly the way you left
them. And because the Aptiva 530 system
comes with voice recognition capability, you
can talk to your PC. Use your voice instead of
the keyboard or mouse to navigate through
Windows and other Windows-based programs.

We're always here, whenever you need us. When you buy your new Aptiva from IBM PC Direct™, your computer is supported by IBM HelpWare® service and support, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And that means a 30-day, no-hassle moneyback guarantee¹ and a 3-year limited warranty (1 year for monitor and pre-installed software) with IBM Express Maintenance™ anywhere in the U.S.²

Call us today.

Your Aptiva awaits. All you have to do is call IBM PC Direct. We'll help you decide which Aptiva is perfect for you and your family.



IBMPC Direct To order call today!

1800426.7255

Enter source code 4840.



IBM PC Office prices/offerings are subject to change, withdrawal or availability. Remarketer prices may vary. Shipping and handling charges are extra. "MB, when used to describe hard drive storage, stands for 1,000,000 bytes; total user-accessible capacity may vary slightly based on operating system of the property o

You'll feel right at home with it.











EXPLOREMEINTERNET!



FIVE HOUR FREE TRIAL!*

Dial By Modem 1-800-365-4636, Press return until you get a prompt At Username, enter JOINDELPHI. At Password, Enter **HPC395**

*Free offer applies to new members only: limit one per household: and is valid for a limited time. A valid credit card is required for immediate access. Free time may be used only during the remainder of the calendar month of becoming a member. Telcom surcharges apply during business hours (6 am to 6 pm weekdays) via Tymnet or SprintNet and for access outside the mainland U.S. New members must agree to Terms and Conditions of membership when joining. Complete details and other restrictions are provided during the toll-free registration. DELPHI INTERNET is a trademark of Delphi Internet Services Corporation.

Attention Current Internet Users: See what DELPHI can offer you! Stock quotes, Grolier's Encyclopedia, newswires, and hundreds of other services are just a few keystrokes away. Telnet to delphi.com and enter the username and password above for a free trial.

**9,600 bps available in most local areas via Tymnet and Sprintnet. 14,400 bps available by dialing direct to Cambridge, MA.

FREE

Delphi Internet[™] offers you full access to the Internet and now you can explore this incredible resource with no risk. You get 5 hours of evening and weekend access to try it out for free!*

Use Delphi Internet's 9.600 mail gateway to exchange 14,400 messages with over 30 million people at universities, companies, and other online services such as CompuServe® and MCI Mail®. Download programs and files from all over the world using FTP or connect in real-time to other networks using Telnet. You can also meet people on the Internet. Internet Relay Chat lets you "talk" with people all over the world and Usenet News is the world's largest bulletin board with over 20,000 topics!

To help you find the information you want, you'll have direct access to powerful search utilities such as **Gopher**, **Hytelnet** and **WAIS**. If you aren't familiar with these terms, don't worry; Delphi Internet has expert online assistants and a large collection of help files, books, programs, and other resources to help get you started.

Over 850 local access numbers are available across the country. Explore Delphi Internet today. You'll be amazed by what you discover.



Questions? Call 1-800-695-4005. Send e-mail to 1NFO@delphi.com

1994 © Delphi Internet Services Corporation

HOME REMEDIES YOU CAN USE

EDITED BY SEAN FULTON



ask

I just bought a multimedia upgrade kit with a CD-ROM drive and a

hard and floppy-disk drives, the keyboard, the mouse and all your add-on cards—needs its own set of resources. If your newly installed sound card uses a resource that is reserved for another component in your system, it could trigger the problem you describe.

My guess is that your sound card is trying to use a resource that is assigned to one of the cards already in your system. First, remove the sound card from your computer and try restarting the PC. If it boots up without all the becps—and I suspect it will—you're ready to play detective. Sit down with a pen and paper and the manuals for your sound card and your PC.

Check the sound card manual for a list of the re-

sources the card requires. Then look in the PC owner's manual to see if those resources are used by anything already inside the PC.

If you prefer, you can take the list of resources your sound card needs and call your PC maker's technical support line for help. Usually, the support staff will be able to tell you which resources are in conflict with your computer, and how to change the sound-card settings to solve the problem.

When you find a conflict, your sound eard manual will also tell you how to change the settings. For ex-

ample, you may find your sound card is set for IRQ 6, but your floppy-disk controller already uses that interrupt. Change the sound-card setting to another acceptable IRQ listed in the manual—5, 11 or 15, for example—that's free in your PC and all should be fine.

For more information on hooking up a multimedia upgrade kit—and some tips on dealing with those cursed resources—see Nuts + Bolts in the October 1994 issue of *HomePC*.

I'm about to embark on a

trip to Europe. Will I

be able to use my

Continental divide

computer and printer

abroad?

Not necessarily. In the United States, computer equipment is built to run on 110 volts of electricity at a frequency of 60 hertz (Hz); that's what comes out of the socket in your wall. In Europe, however, power is commonly supplied as 220 volts at a frequency of 50 Hz.

All computers fit into one of three broad categories that determine whether you can use them abroad and, if so, what kind of adapter you'll need to do it. Check with the makers of each piece of equipment—PC, printer, modem and so forth—to see if the component is "voltage and frequency independent," "voltage dependent but frequency independent" or "voltage and frequency dependent."

Machines that are "voltage and

'Driver' runs me off the road

the hardware-installation instructions, but when I turn on my computer to load the driver software, my screen remains blank and I hear five beeps.

If I've said it once, I've said it a thousand times:

Don't forget to keep track of your system resources.

What gives?

Everything in your computer uses resources, which give the PC's components the elements they need to run properly. Resources include interrupt request lines (IRQs), I/O port addresses and memory addresses. Each component in your computer system—including your





frequency independent" generally run on voltages between 110 and 240, and at frequencies between 47 Hz and 63 Hz. Sometimes, such equipment has a switch on the back, near the power cord connector, that toggles between 110 volts and 220 volts. Other machines simply sense the incoming power and adjust their needs accordingly.

For this type of equipment, all you'll need is a simple outlet converter, which enables the wall outlets to accept your computer's power cable; outlet designs vary from country to country. Alternatively, you can buy a new power cable for your equipment when you reach your destination. While the end of the cable that plugs into the wall may vary in shape. the end that plugs into your equipment is universal.

If your equipment is "voltage dependent but frequency independent," it will run at 110 volts and handle frequencies of either 50 Hz or 60 Hz. For this type of equipment, you'll need to buy a stepdown isolation transformer, which converts the European voltage from its normal 220 volts to the 110 volts your computer requires. When buying one, ask the sales assistant if it's properly grounded and make sure it's rated to supply 50 percent more wattage than your computer needs (cheek your computer's manual to determine the necessary wattage). For example, if you need 200 watts, get a step-down transformer that can handle 300 watts. You should also make sure it has multiple connectors, or prongs that will plug into the wall outlets in the country or eountries you plan to visit.

If you have equipment that is "voltage and frequency dependent," leave it home. Computer equipment rated to run only at 60 Hz ean't be converted to run

safely at 50 Hz.

A simple outlet converter should cost about \$10 to \$15, while a stepdown transformer may cost \$100 or more. Whatever type of equipment you have, and whether or not it works in Europe, have a great time while you're there.

> is there a way to make

DOS programs so that

Windows icons for my

I think icon. I think icon

I can launch them from Windows instead of looking up the DOS commands?

Sure. First, you'll need to open a _program-group window on your desktop to tell the computer where to put the new icon for your program. If you want to put the icon in the Applications group, for example, simply go into Program Manager and click twice on the icon called Applications.

Go to the File menu at the top of the screen and choose "New." A pop-up window will ask whether you want to create a new Program Group or Program Item. Select Program Item and elick on OK.

Next, you'll see a window called Program Item Properties, which will ask you to fill in the following information fields: Description, Working Directory, Command Line and Shortcut Key.

Type the program name in the Description box. This is the name that will appear right below the ieon on your Windows desktop.

The Working Directory field asks you to tell Windows the directory in which you want to work. Enter the directory that eontains the program—for example, C:\msword—so that when Windows opens a window for that particular program, it will first switch to that directory.

Under Command Line, enter the command you'd type to run the program from DOS. If you want to run Microsoft Word in DOS and the program is in the directory C:\msword, enter "C:\msword\word.exe." If you need help locating the command that launches the program, click on the Browse button on the righthand side of the Program Item Properties window to call up a list of possibilities.

Don't bother entering a Shortcut key, which just allows you to launch the application by selecting

> a eustom-defined keyboard combination.

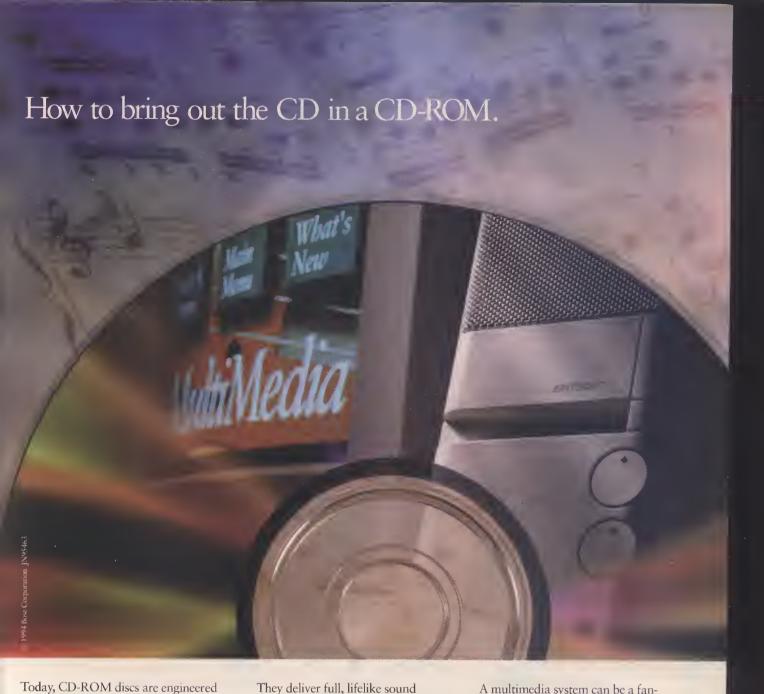
At this point, if you eliek on OK, you'll get a generie ieon that will run your program. To attach a more eolorful icon, elick on the Change Icon button in the Program Item Properties window. If you find an icon that you like among the choices you see there, click on it once, then elick on OK.

If you don't see an icon you like



there, you'll notice a message that directs you to a list of icons assembled for Program Manager.

Finally, if there aren't any icons in that group that strike your



Today, CD-ROM discs are engineered with high quality sound. To fully enjoy it, you need multimedia speakers made by a company that really knows sound. Speakers like the new MediaMateTM computer speakers from Bose.



from a compact design. From the screeches of a prehistoric pterodactyl to the softest passages of a song, the special built-in amplifier and equalizer deliver robust lows and sparkling highs even at low volume.

And magnetically shielded Media.

And magnetically shielded Media-Mate speakers work with all multimedia hardware. Dual input allows you to hear two sources (such as your computer plus a musical instrument) simultaneously. A multimedia system can be a fantastic adventure for entertainment and games, as well as a valuable tool for education, business presentations or professional MIDI applications. So don't shortchange yourself on your speakers. Call for the name of a dealer near you, and hear an ear-opening demonstration.

1-800-444-BOSE Ext. 500

Better sound through research.

fancy, click on the Browse button, which opens a window containing a list of files that Windows thinks might contain icons. Double-click on any file in the list, and you'll see the icons associated with it on your screen. To select one, click on it once, then click on OK.

Some time ago,
my system
crashed. I think
I rebuilt all my
startup files, but my
mouse won't work
when I boot the
computer. I get a



already looks like one of the correct lines, chances are the program that tells your computer how to use

> your mouse the mouse driver—was moved,

removed or corrupted. Try re-installing the mouse driver using the driver disks that came with the mouse. If you don't have them, contact the company that makes the mouse and ask for a new set.

I want to be able to view

video clips on my PC

work with single-speed CD-ROM drives, so you'd assume a double-speed drive should be plenty fast, right? Not necessarily.

As the double-speed CD-ROM drive—and, slowly but surely, the quadruple-speed drive—becomes the popular choice of buyers, distributors of movies on CD-ROM will begin encoding their video to require these faster standards. At the very least you'll need a double-speed drive; quadruple speed will put you ahead of the curve for the future standard.

The second issue to consider is, as you say, the video-graphics accelerator card (also referred to as a video card or video-adapter card). A video card controls your computer's video display—also known as the monitor. The better your graphics adapter, the better the image you see.

When you're ready to add your video card, check the owner's manual for your computer and look up what type of "bus standard" it uses. Standards include PCI, VESA Local Bus, ISA and EISA: you'll need to buy a card that will work with your computer's standard.

Next, consider the video format. Today, most movies are encoded in a format called AVI, so one option that will work is to get a video card that supports AVI technology. But a relatively new standard for movie encoding used in home computers, called MPEG,

is now gaining steam in the market, so you

might also check out an MPEG video adapter. And if you want to protect your computer from the possibility of obsolescence, you could buy an AVI card that can be upgraded to support MPEG standards in the future.



Get me out of this mousetrap

message that says

"Bad or missing

C:\Mouse\Mouse\Sys."

However, I can

start the mousedriver program from

the DOS command

You may be the victim of a simple typo. Your mouse driver, usually found in the *coufig.sys* file, which your computer reads each time it starts up, is not loading—and the system's showing you an error message to let you know.

line. Help!

Your config.sys file probably contains one of the following lines: device=C:\mouse\mouse\sys or devicehigh=C:\mouse\mouse\sys. If I'm right, that backslash between "mouse" and "sys" should be a period. In other words, the line should read device=C:\mouse\mouse\sys or devicehigh=C:\mouse\mouse\sys.

If the line in your config.sys file

I'm tired of slow-motion video

at normal movie

speed. Do I need a

graphics-accelerator

card, or will a doublespeed CD-ROM drive

do the trick?

Well, let's start with that CD-ROM drive. Most current movies and video clips produced for playback on home computers have been designed to

FREE SOFTWARES

MEANWHILE, AT THE OFFICE ...

If you've ever thought about desktop publishing, but didn't know what it was, or what it could do for you, you can't afford to ignore this FREE offer...

If you don't already use Serif PagePlus – the #1

If you don't already use Serif PagePlus – the #1 selling desktop publisher – now's your chance. For a limited time you can get the world's

easiest DTP, for FREE! The Serif Free* Software Offer has been extended due to incredible demand, and there's another 250,000 copies available!

PagePlus Intro is the little brother to PagePlus 3.0 – described

by Windows Magazine as "caviar for the price of tuna" – our \$99 power-packed rival to Aldus PageMaker. PagePlus Intro is ideal for those new to Windows and DTP and is super-friendly and flexible. And Intro is one of the PagePlus family of award-winning, best selling publishing and graphics products.

Intro gives you everything you need to get started quickly and easily. In no time, you'll design high quality, graphics-packed flyers, letterheads, ads and newsletters. And get great results on any dot-matrix, ink-jet or laser printer – in color or b/w. And you'll find out that DTP is real fun too!

What's the catch? There's no catch... PagePlus Intro is simply the easiest way to find out about Desktop Publishing. And once you've used one value-packed Serif product you'll want the rest! Get PagePlus today, and you'll join over 500,000 enthusiastic Serif customers world-wide. Call NOW for your FREE* PagePlus Intro!!!

Section #1
Chance. For

WOWS

THE WORLD'S EASIEST
DESKTOP PUBLISHER...
AND IT'S FREE!!!

Fival to If for those Intendly ePlus blishing

Or get on'll design whends

AS SOON AS NANCY HEARD THAT SERIF'S INCREDIBLE FREE SOFTWARE OFFER HAD BEEN EXTENDED, SHE CALLED RIGHT AWAY!!! EVEN THE CALL WAS FREE!!!

CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE SERIF PAGEPLUS INTRO —



1-200-433-5719

24-Hour Toll-Free Value Line, Open 7-Days.
Please Quote Code – HMPC035



* There is a non-refundable \$7.95 shipping and admin charge. Please have your credit card ready: Visa, MasterCard, Amex and Discover accepted. You need Windows 3.1 and 2Mb RAM. Serif and PagePlus are trademarks of Serif, Inc. Aldus and PageMaker are trademarks of Aldus Corp. All other trademarks acknowledged. Please mail checks or money-orders to Serif. PO Box 803, Nashua NH 03061. (603) 889-8650 and fax (603) 889-1127. PagePlus Intro can be collected free from Serif in Nashua – call for details. Offer limited to the first 250,000 US/Canada callers, one copy per household only. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. PagePlus 3.0 is \$99 and the Publishing Suite is \$199 available from Serif and all fine retailers.

The telephone company told

me my fax modem

your modem to *ignore* interruptions such as the call-waiting signal. Most Hayes-compatible modems are set to hang up if they're interrupted for longer than 1.4 seconds. The typical

call-waiting tone lasts for 1.5 seconds, so increas-

ing your modem's tolerance for these

interruptions will help.

Check your modem's documentation for instructions on how you can change the settings that determine when the modem disconnects. If you have a Hayes-compatible modem, the manual most likely refers to this setting as the S10 register.

NOTE: Last month's column included an item about the floating-point calculation bug in the Intel Pentium chip. After we went to press, Intel announced it will replace any customer's Pentium chip free on request. Call Intel at (800) 628-8686 for more information.

Dr. PC was assisted this month by Andy Feibus, Michele K. Hugelmeyer and Chris Oggerino.

Do you have a question for Dr. PC? You can mail it to Ask Dr. PC, 11omePC, 600 Community Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030, phone it in to (800) DOC-IS-IN, fax it to (516) 562-7007 or post it to the doctor at HomePC on America Online.

Call waiting: Give me the fax

won't work if I

have call waiting.

Is this true?

Sort of. In fact, your modem will work, but the incoming fax documents may be interrupted by the beep you hear when a call comes in and the line is in use. Back in our June 1994 issue, we talked about disabling eall waiting before dialing out, but if your modem receives an *incoming* call (or a fax), you can't block the signal that says you're receiving a second call.

You can, of course, install a second telephone line. Or, you can tell







Now you can use your computer to draw a smile.

That's right. You can now use your PC to draw smiles, laughs and

even hard-to-draw things like affection and appreciation. All you need is Gift Maker, the new software that lets you easily create one-of-a-kind, personalized presents that draw the most wonderful

responses no matter what the occasion—

birthdays, holidays, school celebrations, or the company picnic.

Here's how it works: First, pick from

over 35 gift items

-mugs to mousepads to

designing. Use Gift Maker's 300 templates, 30 different type-faces, and 500 graphic images.

Even include your own photos

teddy bears and more. Next, start

or graphics. When you're finished, follow the interactive ordering screen

that automatically totals the order and

gives you the choice of sending in your computer file directly by



modem or on disk. Within days, the gift you created is on its way back to you or to the "gift-getter," complete with card and gift wrap.

So if you're looking for a way to create custom gifts guaranteed to get them grinning, there's only one

conclusion to draw: Gift Maker.

The Easy Way to Create Personalized Gifts



Apple Peripherals

Until recently, most people could afford to express their ideas in exactly

one shade: black. But with the immensely affordable Apple® Color StyleWriter® 2400, you can explore your ideas in living color, whether you're creating a marketing proposal, a neighborhood newsletter or (if you happen to be in 6th Grade) a report on Australia. This ink-jet printer prints at 360 dots per inch resolution, adding impact to your work with sharp-looking text and solid, vibrant colors. Your transparencies turn out crisp and vivid. And thanks to Apple's unique ColorSync® technology, the piece of your pie chart that looks fuchsia on-screen will still



be fuchsia in your document. We've also included 64 TrueType® fonts (more than most printers in this price range), so you can say what you need to say the way it needs to be said. If your office space is limited, you'll appreciate the compact industrial design of the Color StyleWriter 2400. If, on the other hand, you work in a group, Apple's ColorShare® technology makes it easy to share your color printer over an Ethernet, TokenTalk® or LocalTalk® network. All this, and the Color StyleWriter 2400 costs only a little more than a blackand-white printer. Which means you can now afford to print in periwinkle and chartreuse, if you're so inclined.



hot Stuff!

COOL PRODUCTS AND THE LATEST TRENDS

BY THE EDITORS OF HOMEPC



OK, so the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers have taken control of Saturday-morning TV. What's a lover of good old cartoon style and panache to do? Try a Windows screen saver. Asymetrix presents Rocky & Bullwinkle

Dull PC? It just needs fine 'tooning

and the Pink Panther (\$24.95, floppy; \$39.95, CD-ROM); LSG spotlights Betty Boop (\$39.95, floppy). The first two deliver full-screen video, and all three include PC wallpaper, sound effects and surprise visits from the clever characters as you work. Bullwinkle might call them "antihistamine" features. (Nothing to sneeze at, you silly moose.)

Asymetrix, (800) 370-8994, (206) 462-0501; Lifestyle Software Group, (800) 289-1157, (904) 825-0220.



Ever get the urge to tell Alex Trebek you'd like Interactive Games for \$50? Here's your chance: Buy Jeopardy! on Windows CD-ROM and rise to the challenge of 5,000 answers (you supply the questions, of course).

OK, smart Alex; give Vanna a turn

For the same price, considerably less than it takes to buy a vowel, spin the Wheel of Fortune Windows CD-ROM and tackle 5,000 word puzzles. Each disc includes original video of Alex and letter-turner Vanna White in their respective games and get-ups.

Sony Imagesoft, (800) 922-7669, (310) 449-2320.





Want to see every inch of your favorite stars on your PC screen? Digital's Full-Video upgrade cards (\$299) and kits (\$699) promise TV-quality, full-screen playback of

Next up: the made-for-PC movie?

games, as well as films like *Top Gun*, now available for FullVideo viewing on CD-ROM. Digital Equipment, (800) 344-4825, (508) 493-5111.

Do your kids have a nose for news? What On Earth, now available in some schools and open to home subscribers this month, will send a kid's-eye view of current events from the Reuters news service straight to

Get your kids to click on the news

your Mac or Windows PC. Kids get six stories a day, five days a week, and can click for text, video, sound and glossaries. Your cable company carries the signal to computers; prices had not been set at press time.

Ingenius, (800) 772-6397, (303) 267-5800.





Using the trackball on your notebook computer isn't exactly the cat's meow, but people on the go can't afford to stop every few minutes to un-

This laptop mouse strikes a cord

tangle the long tail of a mouse. So get your hands on Mouse2Go (\$59.95). The package combines a short-cord, high-resolution Windows mouse with a small mouse pad that attaches to the side of your laptop, offering full-screen cursor coverage.

How's that for staying ahead of the rat race?

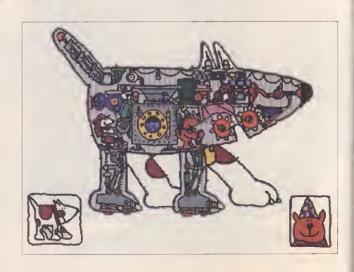
Merritt Computer Products, (214) 339-0753.

It's a dog-eat-dog world, but sometimes you have to stop to smell the roses—or, in this case, the fire hydrant. P.A.W.S., the ultimate eartoon-canine simulator (\$49.95, Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM), lets you lead a dog's life.

Disc gives you a new leash on life

Bury bones, chase the neighborhood cat or check out the Anatomy of a Dog to see just what makes you tick; whatever pooch pastime you choose, you'll have a howling good time.

Voyager, (800) 337-4989, (914) 591-5500.





Experience the Magic. Live the Adventure.

ong ago, in a Land of Five Kingdoms, the amulet known as The Hand was shattered into five pieces and hidden throughout the Far Reaches. Dark magic spread and the evil wizard

Torlok began his reign of terror and suffering.

Now, the fate of the Five Kingdoms rests on Lathan, the last of the Argent Kings. Help him fulfill ancient prophecy as you set out on an interactive adventure like nothing before.

From the creator of *Dragon's Lair*TM comes an all new fantasy adventure. With epic animation and a lush score

from musicians who are best known for their song arrangements written for Walt Disney Feature Animation; it's an incredible experience for the entire family.

• Different story line each time you play.

- Over 57,000 hand-painted animation cels are captured in full-motion video making this a stunning visual journey.
- Professional voice actors bring the story to life.
- Simple point and click controls, with multiple difficulty levels make play equally thrilling for players of all levels.

Now Available for DOS CD-ROM*







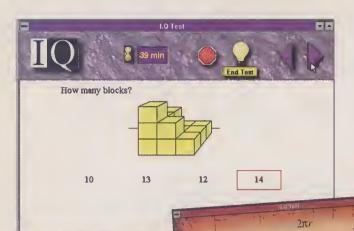




© 1994 Interplay Productions and Virtual Image Productions. The 3DO Compatibility Symbol and 3DO are trademarks of The 3DO Company, Dragon's Lair is a trademark of Starcom. All other trademarks are properties of Interplay Productions. All Rights Reserved.



See your local retailer, or call (714) 553-6678



Ever wonder if you have what it takes to be the next Einstein—or, for that matter, the next Forrest Gump? I.Q. Test for Windows (\$14.95, Windows; \$19.95, Windows CD-ROM) can help you analyze your acumen. The program

No game today? Take a brain check

features an introduction on intelligence, a complete I.Q. test and a detailed explanation of test scores. Answers are included—but we know you're too smart to cheat!

Virtual Entertainment, (617) 449-7567.

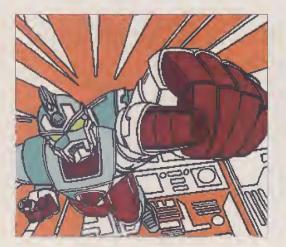
If Woodstock '94 made you long for love-ins and flower children, flash back to Haight-Ashbury in the Sixties (\$50, Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM).

Yippie! A '60s time capsule on CD

Dig the music from Jefferson Airplane and the Grateful Dead, chats with Timothy Leary and Allen Ginsberg, and lots of photos and videos. And don't forget to put flowers in your hair weave.

Compton's NewMedia, (800) 862-2206, (619) 929-2500.





Computer viruses, beware: The Superhuman Samurai Syber-Squad is out to eradicate you. The cartoon cast from the popular Saturday-morning TV show is now invading

Learning about viruses need not be a strain

your PC with the Computer Safety Fun Kit (\$25, Windows). The program includes a history of common and infamous viruses as well as Samurai screen savers and the Gigabutt-kicking Coloring Book. Take that, Michelangelo.

TouchStone, (800) 531-0450, (714) 969-7746.

One extra large helping of urban reality, served up on a silver platter.





Drop this silver platter in your

CD-ROM drive and feast your

eyes on the *pièce de résistance* of simulated games: the SimCity 2000® CD Collection—three complete

SimCity 2000 products on one CD.

This cityscape is so real you can taste it. Go ahead, expand your subway before breakfast.

Terraform your landscape after lunch. Reshape your

skyline before supper. And see it from a variety of delicious 3-D angles.

And forget buying add-ons: the CD Collection comes complete with all of SimCity 2000's a la carte items. The



Scenorios Volume 1: Take on Mount St. Melon's ond 9 other disosters.

Urban Renewal Kit allows you to customize buildings and graphics—you literally can paint the town.

Scenarios Volume 1 makes it all too real—you'll wrestle with 10 real disasters in 10 real U.S. cities.

And bonus cities and scenarios further extend your

city limits. So dig in to the ultimate city simulator. The SimCity 2000 CD Collection is now served.



Three SimCity 2000 Products on One CD.



Point the town with

JUST THINK OF US ONLY WE MAKE

STARTER SET



- Big 9 1/2" monochrome screen
- 4MB OF RAM memory
- DX2/66MHz processor
- 340MB hard drive

\$1739 (Add \$100 for DX4/75)

ECONO



Included With

- 16-bit stereo sound, speaker, microphone Free handsome, rugged carrying case
- Free Microsoft(ware) Windows 3.1.1, M/S DOS, Money and Works for Windows 3.0
- 30-day, money-back guarantee Built-in graphics BitBLT engine and 1MB video RAM

MAY WE PLEASE TAKE

How about a powerful 486 notebook computer

with all these great features, but hold the active-matrix and DX4/100 chips?

Won't become obsolete.

Hot, new CTX EzBooks served up any way you want them now. And all ready for us to upgrade for you later as you need more power. We'll even pay the overnight shipping costs.*

Shown above are three of our most popular configurations you can order by phone today and get two days later.**

Beyond that, you have a wide choice of Intels inside from 486SX/33s

AS A DELICATESSEN. HERO NOTEBOOKS.

COLOR

- Big 9 1/2" dual-scan color screen
- 8MB OF RAM memory
- DX2/66MHz processor
- 520MB hard drive

Only

MAD MAX



- Big 9 1/2" TFT active-matrix color screen
- 8MB OF RAM memory
- DX4/75MHz processor
- 520MB hard drive

Only

Every EzBook

- Free 14.4 bits per sec. fax/modem PCMCIA card Long-life, hot-swap batteries
- Built-in floppy drives 84-key, full-function keyboard Serial and parallel ports
- Upgradability memory, disk, screens, CPU power Two PCMCIA slots (III&II)

YOUR ORDER NOW?

to 486DX4/100s. RAM from 4 to 32MB. Hard disks from 260 to 520MB. Three screens. And a dock-

ing station with optional CD-ROM and all the slots and ports you can gobble up.

So get your VISA or MasterCard ready. Call MITRA to order your CTX EzBook 486 today.

Nowhere will you get better quality, more value, greater choice, or less risk. We guarantee it.

Quantities Limited. Call MITRA Direct Now. 800-324-1441



DIRECT FROM CHANNEL GROUP

20504 Earlgate St., Walnut, CA 91789 Mon-Fri. 7 to 7, Sat-Sun 9 to 6 (Pacific Time)





best buys

SUPER VALUES FOR SAVVY SHOPPERS

BY JULIE COHEN

Make your PC shipshape—for free

It's frustrating enough to have to ship your computer equipment to the manufacturer for repair;

wrestling with material that refuses to fit in the box just adds insult to injury.

Mail Boxes Etc. understands; its new free service ends the re-

products.

All of the postal services chain's 2,500 stores will pack

warrantied equipment

packing blues for

owners of cer-

from participating companies (including Epson, Hewlett-Packard, Panasonic, Philips, Ricoh, Toshiba and Xerox) and ship it overnight; just call the manufacturer for authorization. When repairs are done, you can have the equipment sent to you or held at the store for pickup.

If the PC isn't under warranty, you'll have to pay for the service (fees vary depending on what you're shipping). But it sure beats Styrofoaming at the mouth over packing hassles.

Mail Boxes Etc., (800) 949-6660, (619) 455-8800.

Disc count determines your discount

Can mail-order shopping be both entertaining and cost-effective? Check out Voyager's 3Sixty, a

breezy catalog that provides scores of in-depth CD-ROM reviews, dandy discounts and freebies.

Buy two CD-ROMs and you'll get a 10 percent discount on your order. Four purchases knock 15 percent off the bill, and six save you 25 percent. Spend more than \$50 and you get a T-shirt; top \$200 and Voyager sends you that shirt in a tote bag.

Most products in 3Sixty are Voyager's own, but you'll also find software from Broderbund, Dorling Kindersley, Microsoft and others. Voyager's 77 titles cater mostly to artsy tastes—from the deliciously macabre The Residents' Freak Show to The Complete Maus, Art Spiegelman's award-winning tale of his parents' Holocanst experience. But the catalog also features whimsical programs such as A Silly Noisy House (full of on-screen toys) and Sound Toy (a \$1+.95 music-making game) that appeal both to kids and those who are kids at heart.

Voyager, (800) 446-2001, (914) 591-5500.



Keep safe without emptying the vault

You can't afford to leave your work on the computer unprotected, so it's a good thing backup options are becoming more cost-effective. Take the new Zip drive



(\$199) from Iomega; it plugs into your PC or Macintosh and backs up your files onto 100-megabyte (MB) disks (\$19.95 each).

The Zip drive is fast, transferring 1.25 MB of data per second (that's about 80 seconds to safeguard 100 MB of data). In contrast, lomega's Bernoulli drives work twice as fast—but they cost more than twice as much.

Besides saving you money and time, the Zip conserves space. It is about the size of a paperback novel and weighs only slightly more than a pound. It also includes ZipTools software, which lets you easily organize, catalog and transfer your files.

Iomega, (800) 777-6654, (801) 778-1000.

CD-ROMs boast a high book value

Spring's just around the eorner, and if your thumbs are turning green at the thought of planting your garden, you'll dig this deal: Buy the Better Homes and Gardens Complete Guide to Gardening (Windows and Macintosh CD-ROM) for \$59.95 and you'll get a free copy of the 550-page book of the same name.

The two formats complement

Top of the charts

Education

0	Encarta
	Microsoft
2	Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia
	Compton's NewMedia
3	Where in the USA Is Carmen Sandiego?*Broderbund Software
4	Math Blaster: In Search of Spot
	Davidson
5	Bookshelf
6	Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing
	Mindscape
7	The Oregon Trail
8	Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?Broderbund Software
9	Dinosaur Adventure 3-D
	Knowledge Adventure
10	Just Grandma and Me
	Broderbund Software

Games

0	Doom II*
2	MystBroderbund Software
3	5 Ft. 10 Pak Volume 2* Sirins Publishing
4	5 Ft. 10 Pak Sirius Publishing
5	Master of Magic*
6	Sid Meier's Colonization*
7	Space Simulator*
8	TIE FighterLucasArts
9	SimCity 2000 Maxis
0	The 7th Guest Virgin Interactive

Personal productivity

ui p	ouncinary
0	Quicken for Windows
2	Quicken Deluxe for Windows*
3	Quicken CD-ROM Deluxe for Windows*
4	Quicken 6.0 (MS-DOS)
5	Print Shop Deluxe CD Ensemble Broderbund Software
6	Print Shop Deluxe for Windows Broderbund Software
7	Quicken CD-ROM for Windows*
8	3-D Home Architecture Broderbund Software
9	Street Atlas USA DeLorme Mapping

Source: PC Data (for October 1994). * indicates first time on charts.

Home Design 3-D for Windows

.....Expert Software

The road to multimedia heaven is paved

with the latest computer technologies from Gateway 2000.®

We're the leading direct market manufacturer of personal computers in the U.S. with a high-flying focus on family computing. Starting as low as \$1,799, our full line of Family PC multimedia systems come totally equipped for today's computer whiz-kids. Every Gateway 2000 Family PC multimedia computer includes a fast CD-ROM drive and high-quality sound system that runs the best programs and games with exciting sound, pictures, animation and video. There's even a Messaging Center, featuring the new TelePath™ IIv fax/modem — it will take the place of a conventional answering machine! And connecting to the Internet has never been easier.

When you take off with our winged P5-75 Family PC multimedia system, you'll climb to a higher altitude in computing technology! Intel's Pentium processor for the future is here today in Gateway's P5-75 multimedia computer. Only Gateway 2000 combines the awesome thrust of a Pentium processor-based system with some of Microsoft's best software programs. It's a value package that will grow right along with your family computing needs.

Your kids will learn faster and fly further with software programs like Microsoft Fine Artist and Encarta'95 Multimedia Encyclopedia.

Encarta'95 features over 17,000 multimedia elements and the complete
Funk and Wagnall's New Encyclopedia! You also get Microsoft
Works and Money, the only software packages you'll ever need
for your home office. Your entire family will delight in Microsoft
Cinemania'95 and its star-studded history of Hollywood in photos
and sound clips. And for pure relaxation, enjoy the wonders of Torrey
Pines with a round of Microsoft Multimedia Golf.

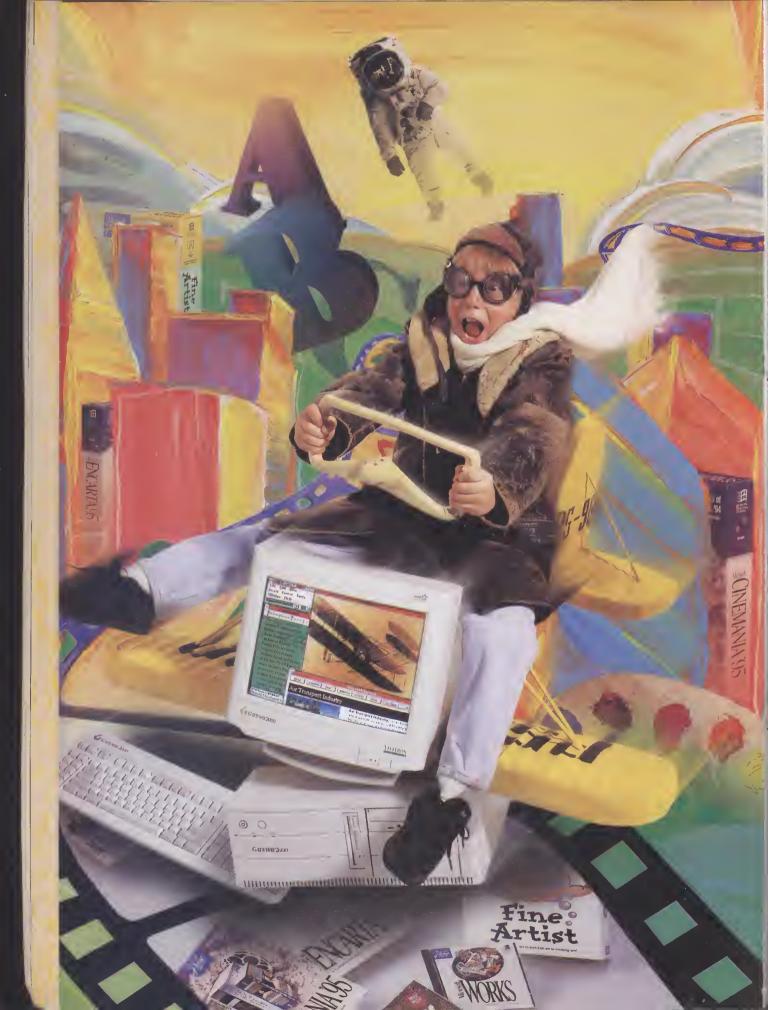
As you prepare your children for the future, you'll know you're buying from a solid company that will be here to support you. All Gateway Family PC multimedia computers include a three-year warranty and toll-free telephone technical support for the life of your system. We accept most major credit cards, or you can apply for the Gateway 2000 DuoLine™ MasterCard® card issued by Dial National Bank in Des Moines, Iowa. Our friendly sales representatives are standing by at the home office in North Sioux City, South Dakota. Call us today and fasten your seatbelt for an exciting future in multimedia computing!



610 Gateway Drive • North Sioux City, SD • 57049-2000

Sales Hours: 7am-10pm Weekdays, 9am-4pm Saturdays (CDT)







P5-75 Family PC™

- Intel® 75MHz Pentium™ Processor Intel Verified: Upgradable
- 8MB RAM, 256KB Cache
- 730MB 10ms IDE Hard Drive
- PC1 Enhanced IDE Interface
- PC1 Local Bus Graphics with 2MB
- Quad-Speed CD-ROM Drive
- 16-Bit Sound Card & Altec Speakers
- TelePath[™] Ilv 14.4K Fax/Modem
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 15" Vivitron[™] Monitor
- Desktop Case
- AnyKey[®] Keyboard & Mouse
- MS-DOS® 6.22 & WFW 3.11
- Microsoft® Works, Encarta[™] '95 Money, Cinemania® '95, Golf & Fine Artist pre-installed on the hard drive
- 3-Year Limited Parts Warranty
- Toll-free telephone technical support for the life of your system

\$2299 (Other models start as low as \$1,799)

*GST and shipping not included.

© 1994 Gateway 2000, Inc. "G" logo, "You've got a friend in the business" slogan, Gateway 2000 and AnyKey are registered trademarks, and Vivitron , DucLine, TelePath and Family PC are trademarks of Gateway 2000, Inc. The Intel Inside Logo, Intel, and Pentium are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. All other brands and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. Monitors' diagonal measurements indicate the size of the cathode-ray tube. All prices and configurations are subject to change without notice or obligation.

each other well. Use the CD-ROM to locate information quickly—say. all the tall vellow annuals that grow in partly sunny spots: then take the book with you into the garden as a handy reference.

If gardening isn't your fancy, Multicom Publishing and Meredith Books/Better Homes and Cardens have two other CD-ROM and book combos to choose from: BH&G's New Dieter's Cookbook and Healthy



Cooking CD-ROM contain more than 400 recipes, meal-planning tips and cooking techniques, while BH&G's Incredible Awesome Crafts for Kids book and Cool Crafts CD-ROM offer 101 projects for kids ages 3 to 12, complete with stepby-step video instructions.

Multicom Publishing, (800) 850-7272, (206) 622-5530.

Free software—for a limited time only

"This program will self-destruct in 45 days." Nervous? Don't be: this deal is short but sweet. Until it conks out, you can use the free Lotus Gallery CD-ROM to sample full working versions of 12 of Lotus's most popular Windows programs (and six OS/2 versions), including the business utility Notes, the integrated programs in SmartSuite, the communications program cc:Mail, and Improv, a 3-D spreadsheet.

Install as many of the 12 programs as you want; after 45

Top of the charts

CD-ROM	
1	Doom II*
2	Mvst GT Interactive
	Broderbund Software
3	5 Ft. 10 Pak Volume 2*Sirius Publishing
4	Quicken CD-ROM Deluxe for Windows*
5	5 Ft. 10 Pak Sirius Publishing
6	Print Shop Deluxe CD Ensemble
7	Encarta Broderbund Software
8	Corel Gallery
9	The 7th Guest
10	Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia
Macintosh	education
0	The New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia
2	Encarta Grolier
3	Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia
4	
5	New Math Blaster Plus Davidson
6	Mario Teaches Typing
0	Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?
8	Kid Pix 2
9	Reader Rabbit 1
10	World Atlas*
Macintosh	games
0	MystBroderbund Software
2	Star Wars Rebel Assault
3	SimCity 2000
4	Links Pro
5	Star Trek Interactive Technical Manual*
	Simon & Schuster
<i>Macintosh</i>	personal productivity
0	Quicken
2	Print Shop Deluxe
3	Seasons Greetings PS Fonts*
4	TypeBook*

WillMaker

Source: PC Data (for October 1994). * indicates first time on charts.



The OL400e.

The perfect personal printer.

The Specs.

High quality 300 dpi output.

LED printhead 5-year limited warranty.

Fast 4 page per minute print speed.

Windows™capable.

Expandable paper handling as needs grow.

For more detailed information or a dealer near you, call 1-800-OKI TEAM ext. 561. (U.S. or Canada)

The Word.

"provides laser-quality output at a low price." — Home Office Computing 2/94

"Best Of The Breed"

"...produces crisp text and graphic documents." — PC Today 2/94

"...speedy printing and good print quality in a compact package."

"...the OL400e matched the competition head on."

"The Okidata OL400e offers you low cost and good speed..."

"Tough to beat."

"For compactness and excellent through put, the OL400e distinguishes itself."

— Computer Shopper 3/94

"...compact, sleek, and requires about as much desk area as an open magazine."

"...a lot of printer for the money."

"...low cost laser performance in a compact package..."

"...better performance and one of the lowest prices around for a laser-quality device."

— PC World 11/93

"...buy one and your printer woes will be gone."

— Computer Shopper 12/93

"Wonderfully compact and quiet. Call it the Bargain of the Year."

— PC Week 12/20/93

"Laser output at unlaserlike price."

— BYTE Magazine 9/93

"Take a good long look at this one."

— Compute 12/93

"...The thing is so darn friendly!"

— Computing Now, 12/93

"Print quality is excellent."

"A quality printer that performs well and carries an affordable price. As ever,
Okidata provides good value."





days they're simply erased from your system. Just remember to save your data in a separate directory or on a floppy disk, or you'll lose it all when the program disappears.

Intuit takes a similar approach with its \$9.95 trial version of QuickBooks, a Windows accounting package. The software is disabled after 25 uses, although your work remains intact. If you buy the full QuickBooks program (\$199) after using the trial version, you'll get a \$10 rebate.

Lotus, (800) 872-3387, ext. A172, (617) 577-8500; Intuit, (800) 624-9060, (415) 322-0573.

Ask what your country can do for you

When your grandparents celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, would they like to receive congratulations from the White House? You can make it happen; it's one of



more than 1,000 government freebics listed in Matthew Lesko's Information USA (\$49.95). a Windows CD-ROM delivering descriptions of government programs, addresses and telephone numbers.

You can also check out Information USA on CompuServe (Go Lesko). You won't get the CD-ROM's video (featuring a bow-tied and bespectacled Lesko energetically promoting his finds), nor will you be able to search for specific topics, but you will get a solid selection of tips.

(And to get that letter from the Clintons, send a written request to the White House Greetings Office, Room 91, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20500.)

InfoBusiness, (800) 657-5300, (801) 221-1100.

Looking for a top-of-the-line laser

600-dpi laser printers dip below \$600

printer at a midline price? Now, you've got a choice. First, the latest in black-and-white laser printers—NEC's Silentwriter SuperScript 660—offers crisp, high-quality 600-dots-perinch (dpi) resolution for less than \$600.

The Silentwriter,
designed for use
with Windows
PCs, is Hewlett-Packard
LaserJet-compati-

ble and can be upgraded to the PostScript Level 2 printer language for \$99. It prints six pages per minute.

Also breaking the \$600 barrier is Okidata's OL410e, a four-page-per-minute, 600-dpi-class printer. It sold for about \$650 in December, but a list-price reduction to \$739 means you'll now find it in many stores for around \$550.

NEC Technologies, (800) 632-4636, (508) 264-8000; Okidata, (800) 654-3282, (609) 235-2600.



Name Brands For Less!







Laptops/Portables

NEG
VERSA S/33D 210MB Dual Scan \$1384
VERSA S/33C 210MB Active \$2124
VERSA S/50C 260MB Active \$2297
VERSA V/50D 250MB Dual Scan \$2454
VERSA V/50C 340MB Active
VEDCA V/750 040MB ACIVE
VERSA V/75C 340MB Active \$3787
VERSA W75D 340MB Active
VERSA M/75C 540MB Active \$4664
VERSA M/100C 810MB Active \$5497
VERSA M/100HC 810MB Active \$5874
VERSA P/75C 540MB Active\$5324
VERSA P/75C 810MB Active \$6194
ZENITH
Z-STAR EX DX2/50 Mona 200M8\$1687
Z-STAR EX DX2/50 Dual Scan 200MB \$2124
Z-STAR EX DX2/50 Active 340MB\$3057
CANON
NateJet 486C 4BubbleJet™ printer
120MB /200MB\$2349/\$2549
Note let II 486C Rubble let™ printer

NoteJet II 486C BubbleJet™ printer 260MB\$2613	
COMPAG	
AERO 4/25 Mono 170MB\$1099	
AERO 4/33C Color Passive 170MB\$1679	
AFRO 4/33C Color Passive 250MR \$1960	

	TEXA	SINS	TRUM	ENTS	
		50 Dual			.\$2994
TM4000	M DX2/	50 Active	color 4	455MB	\$3574
TM4000	M DX4/	75 Dual	Scen 3	40MB .	.\$3897
TM4000	M DX4/	75 Active	e Color	340MB	\$4897
TM4000	M DX4/	75 Active	Color	455MB	\$5154
TM4000	M DX4/	100 Dua	I Scan (524MB	.\$5397
		TOSH			
T1910 M	lono, 20	OMB			\$1267
T1910C	3 200 M	В			\$1724
Tt960C5	5 200/32	OMB		.\$2087	\$2254
T1960C1	200/32	:0MB		\$2577/	\$2767

T1910 Mono. 200MB	\$1267
T1910CS 200 MB	\$1724
Tt960CS 200/320MB\$2087	\$2254
T1960CT 200/320MB\$2577/	\$2767
T2400CS 250/320MB\$2424	\$2597
T2400CT 250/320MB\$2897	\$3177
T2450CT 320/500 MB\$4184	\$4477
T3400CT 120/250MB\$1964	\$2137
T3600CT 250MB	\$3357
T4700CT*200/320MB\$3297	\$3484
T4800CT 500MB	\$4667
T4850CT 500/810MB\$4994	\$5324
T4900CT Pentium 810MB	
T6600C CD-ROM ready	\$5324
T6600C/CD	\$5814
EPSON	
ActionNote 650 Mono 260MB	\$1377
ActionNote 650C Dual Color 260MB	\$1837
Action Notes RECC Dural Color 240MD	

18M Thin	kPad
510Cs Pas.Color 200MB	\$179
360 Mono 170/340MB	
360CS Color Dual Scan 176	0MB\$234
360CS Color Dual Scan 34	
360C Color Active 170MB	\$199
360C Color Active 340MB	\$239
755CS Color Dual Scan 170	OMB\$389
340/540MB	
755C Color Active 170MB	\$454
340/540MB	
755CE Color Active 340MB	
540/810MB	
755CSE Color Active 340MI	
540/810MB	\$5299/\$584
755CD Color Active/CD ROI	
540/810MB	\$7599/\$8149

	AT&T Globalyst 200
486	SX/33 Dual Scan 170MB\$2224
486	SX/33 Active Matrix 250MB\$3294
486	DX2/50 Dual Scan 170MB\$2457
	DX2/50 Active Matrix 250MB\$3634

PCMCIA OPTIMA 14.4+FAX14.4.

CCURA 144+FAX144 in/ext	\$92/\$112
CCURA 288V.FC+FAX int/ext	\$189/\$229
PTIMA 144+FAX144 intl/ext	\$369/\$360
PTIMA 288 V.FC+FAX int/ext	\$370/\$430
US RUBOTICS	-ψονοιψπασ
portster 14.4 Fax int/ext\$99/\$115	
	0.70
portster 14.4 PCMCIA	\$179
portster V.34 Int/ext	.\$219/\$239
portster V.34 PCMCIA	\$349
ourier Dual Standard 14.4 PCMCIA	\$349
ouner V.34 int/ext\$379/\$419	
ourier Duel Std 28.8 PCMCIA	\$399
MOTOROLA	
IFESTYLE SERIES	
8.8/14 4 Fax external	cons
CMCIA 14.4/14.4	0175
OWER SERIES	
8.8/14.4 Fax external	\$259
CMCIA Cellular 14.4/14 4	\$229
ASPEN	

MEGAHERTZ
PCMCIA X-JACK 14.4/14.4\$179
PCMCIA 14.4/14.4 \$179
PCMCIA Gold Series X-JACK 14.4/14.4\$199
PCMCIA Gold Series 14.4/14.4 \$199 PCMCIA 28.8/14.4 \$419
PCMCIA 28.8/14.4\$419 Ethernet/Modern Combo 10Base T/14.4\$419
BOGA
14.4 w/FAX internet/external\$89/\$115
14.4/14.4 Multimedia\$119
Sound Expression 14.4/16bit Sound\$159
14.4 Pocket w/FAX\$169
V.34 28,800 bps Modern int/ext\$185/\$225
Ethernat LAN 10Base-T\$134
Ethernat LAN 10Base2-10Base-T Combo\$159
New Medie 14.4 Deta/Fax Modem\$145
Wave Jammer 16-bit Stereo Sound\$234
Bus Toaster SCSI-2 Adapter Card\$209
PCMCIA 16-bit Stereo & SCSI II\$419
PRACTICAL PERIPHERALS
V.34 28.8/14.4 Data/Fax Int/ext\$199/\$219
14.4 14.4/14.4 Data/Fax int/ext\$89/\$109
PCMCIA 14.4/14 4 W/std DAA \$169 PCMCIA 14.4/14.4 W/EZ Port \$179
FUNDIA 14.4/14.4 WEZ POR\$1/9

ORCHID

\$129

tionNote 866C Dual Color 340MB\$2357 tionNote 880CX Act. Color 340MB\$3967 Monitors/Video Cards MAGNAVOX

NEG	
14" SVGA	\$309
14" 2V	
15" MultiSync XV15	\$427*
15* MultiSync XE15	
17* MultiSync XE17	
21" MultiSync XE21	
15° MultiSync XP15	
17" MultiSync XP17	
21° MultiSync XP21	\$2357
* includes free Tax Cut software with ma	il-ın coupon.
GTX	
14" 6439ES	\$199
14*1451ES	\$245
14"1451GM	\$2.55
14"1462ES	\$279
14" 1462GM	\$289
15° 1562GM	\$319
15" 1565GM	\$339
17* 1765GM	\$639
17" 1785GM	\$699
EVA	
EPSON	
15" SVGA .28	\$345
17" SVGA .28	
PANASONIC	

14 101473(1110110)	\$104
14" CM2089	\$228
14" CM2D99	\$248
15° CM2015	\$288
15" CM4015	\$348
17" CM4018	\$679
20" 20CM64	\$998
NOKIA	
14" 44BS	\$399
15" 449E	\$438
15" 447L	\$687
17" 447X	\$994
17" 447X/TCO	\$1094
21" 445X	\$2184

4 " V145	MAG Innov	
		\$328
5" MX15F	·L	\$458
7" DX17F		\$618
7° MXP17	F	\$898
1" MX21F.		\$1684

17" MXP17F	\$898
21" MX21F	\$1684
SONY	,
15" CPD-15SF	\$444
17" CPD-17\$F	\$874
17" GDM-17SE1	\$957
20" GDM-20SE1	\$1887

	_
DIAMOND	
SpeedStar Pro 1MB ISA	
SpeedStar Pro 1MB VLB	
SpeedStar 64 1MB ISA*	\$149
SpeedStar 64 1MB PCI*	
SpeedStar 64 2MB ISA*	
SpeedStar 64 2MB PCI*	\$195
Stealth 64 2MB VLB	
Stealth 64 2MB PCI	\$319
Stealth 64 4MB VLB	\$459
Stealth 64 4MB PCI	\$459
Viper SE 2MB VLB*/PCI*	\$319
Viper SE 4MB VLB*/PCI*	\$469
*Includes Corel Draw 3.0	

HERCULES	
Dynamite Pro 2MB ISA/VLB	
Dynamite Power 2MB VLB	\$209
Dynamite Power 2MB PCI	
Stingray VL 1MB VLB	\$109
Stingray PCI 1MB PCI	\$109
Graphite 64 1MB VLB/PCI	
Graphite 64 2MB VLB/PCI	
Graphite Terminator 64 2MB VLB/PCI	
Graphite Terminator 64 4MB VLB/PCI	
Terminator Pro 4MB VLB/PCI	\$525

ATI Technology
Graphics Xpression 2MB ISA/VLB\$214 Graphics Xpression 2MB PCI\$214 Graphics Ultra Pro 2MB ISA/VLB\$279 Graphics Pro Turbo 2MB ISA/VLB/PCI\$554 Grephics Pro Turbo 4MB ISA/VLB/PCI\$567

MULTIMEDIA KITS / CD-ROM DRIVES / SPEAKERS

MODITIVIEDIA KITS / CD	·w
FLEX	14
LTEV	V
FLEX CD Drive Upgrade Kit\$119	V
FLEX CD-PRO Velue\$199	
FLEX CD-PRO Classic\$249	V
FLEX CD-Pro External\$219	V
N E C MultiSpin 2Vi\$169	S
MultiSpin 2Vi\$169	G
MultiSpin 2V Deluxe\$284	
MultiSpin 3Xp	Р
MultiSpin 3Xi Plus Kit\$449	W
MultiSpin 4Xi\$368	Р
MultiSpin 4Xe\$458	S
MultiSpin 4Xi kit\$449	Р
MultiSpin 4Xe kit\$549	
CHINON	Т
CDS-535\$209	T
CDS-535PC int/ext\$289/\$349	T
	A
TOSHIBA	P
XM3501 Int Ouad Speed\$298	Vi
XM3501 Ext Ouad Speed\$458	
MICROSOLUTIONS Back Pack Portable 2X\$324	М
Back Pack Portable 2X\$324	Tr
Back Pack Portable 4X\$354	М
CONV	141
CDU-55E Drive \$129	
	M
T E A C CD-55A (Quad Speed) \$298	Pr
CD-55A (Quad Speed) \$200	W
GREATIVE LABS	VV
OmniCD\$179	
OmniCD 3X SCSI\$345	AC
OmniCD 4X SCSI	J
Discovery CD 16\$249	JP
Edutainment CD 16 int/ext\$249	JP
Complianted CD 16 Int/ext\$449/\$549	AF
GameBlaster CD 16\$379	AF
Digital SchoolhouseSpecial Price CALL \$299	AF
Sound Blaster 16 Value Edition\$99	AV
Sound Blaster Value Edition\$49	
Sound Blaster Pro Value Edition\$69	ΕA
Sound Blaster 16 SCSI-2\$179	EA
Sound Blaster 16 SCSI-2 w/ASP\$199	
Sound Blaster 16 MultiCD\$149	SF
Sound Blaster 16 MultiCD w/ASP\$179	CS
Sound Blaster AWE32\$299	CS

\$35
\$54
\$17
\$12
614
614
626
36
649
319
13
16
\$5
31
30
\$8
19
30
23:
14
30
\$4!
ψ-7-
\$75
RS
\$6
119
\$99
15
279
389
\$49
139

Printers...Laser/Ink Jet/Dot Matrix

	Prii
EPSON	
ACTION Laser 1100/1400	\$394/\$657
ACTION Laser 1500/1600	\$454/\$754
.X300	\$164
.O-570+/1070+	
X-870/1170	\$279/\$347
.O-300/870/1170	\$196/\$427/\$597
.O-2550 Clr	\$899
DFX-5000+/8000	
Stylus 800+/1000	\$207/\$427
Stylus Color	\$499

PANASONIC PRIN	TERS
X-P4400/P5400	\$399*/\$499
X-P4410/P4430	\$469/\$659
X-P4440	
X-SP100 Printer/Fax/Copier	\$799
X-P1150/P2023	\$129/\$175
X-P3123/P3124	\$249/ \$319
X-P2130/P2135	.\$169*/\$195*
X-P1624/P3624	\$369/\$399
Price includes Manufacturer Reb	ate

Code # HP0305

	Car Dot 1
DICITAL	
DECWRITER 65/1001	\$159/\$199**
DECWRITER 90ic/120ic	\$289/\$279
DECColorwriter 520ic	\$329
DECleser 5100	\$1149
" Includes \$50 Mail-in Rebate	

LEAMA	
4029 LeserPrinter 6	\$949
4039 LaserPrinter 10 plus	\$1219
Optra R/Rx	\$1427/\$1999
Optra L/Lx/Lxi	.\$1899/\$2469/\$2999
WinWriter Series	
Model 100/200	\$285/\$455
Model 400/600	\$757/\$997
VelueWriter 300/600	\$645/\$814
Executet IIc	\$325
2380/2381 Plus Dot Matrix	\$309/\$439
2390/2391 Plus Dot Matrix	
4226 Dot Matrix	\$1299
IBM Color Jet Printer PS 40	079\$2499

4029 LeserPrinter 6	\$949
4039 LaserPrinter 10 plus	\$1219
Optra R/Rx	\$1427/\$1999
Optra L/Lx/Lxi	.\$1899/\$2469/\$2999
WinWriter Series	
Model 100/200	\$285/\$455
Model 400/600	\$757/\$997
VelueWriter 300/600	\$645/\$814
ExecJet IIc	\$325
2380/2381 Plus Dot Matrix	\$309/\$439
2390/2391 Plus Dot Matrix	\$329/\$439
4226 Dot Matrix	\$1299
IBM Color Jet Printer PS 40	79\$2499
OVIDATA DO	INTERO

OKIDATA PRINTERS OL400E/OL410E. \$399/\$54 ML320-I/ML321-I \$299/\$42 ML590-I/ML591-I \$424/\$584	3
#24/\$30	

HP PRINTERS	
HP DeskJet 320/540	\$298/\$284
HP DeskJet 540 Opt. Color kit	\$39.95
HP DeskJet 560C HP DeskJet 1200C/C PS	\$469
HP Support Pack	.\$997/\$1587
HP LeserJet 4L/4P	OADD/GDAD
HP OfficeJet Printer/Fax/Copier	\$769
,	

CANON	
BJ-100 /BJ-10SX	\$197/\$23
BJ-200e/200ex/230	\$224/\$237/\$38
BJC-4000/BJC-600e	\$354/\$45
LBP-430/ LBP-1260	\$577/\$126
TEXAS INSTRU	MENTS

microLaser 600\$827			
microLaser Pro 600 PS23 \$1167			
mlcroLaser Pro E/ Power Pro\$1347/\$1597			
microWriter Printer\$484			
microWriter PS23/PS65\$539/\$799			
BRDTHER			
HL-630/HL-645\$389/\$439			
HL-655M/HL-660\$579/\$679			
HI -1360			

ORDER, CALL...

Scanners

CSS-B100... SRS-D2KPC

er Price - CALL!			
\$999			
\$1499			
\$84			
\$178			
w 4 \$238			
\$499			
\$328			
HEWLETT-PACKARD			
\$779*			
\$469			
bate			
Journ			
\$389			

RELISYS

Sound Blaster AWE32 Value Edition

UMAX
Vista-S6
UC630/UC1260\$599/\$1139
MiniLook Color Handheld \$249
EPSON
ES1200C\$1259
ES800C\$899
ES600C\$499
MOUSE SYSTEMS
PageBrush/256 Mono Handheld \$99
PageBrush/256 Color Handheld \$189
MUSTEK
Handheld 256 Mono
Handheld Color 24
TwainScan Duo 600 \$400

Mail Order Made Easy! By ...



Available



On These Credit Cards

0-374-







USA Flex, Inc., 471 Brighton Dr., Bloomingdale, IL 60108

PHILJACKSON

HAS BEEN WARPED

SINCE THE START

OF THE SEASON.



Before any
basketball coach tries
to emulate the
winning ways of

Coach Phil Jackson, they

may want to take a peek inside his computer.

If they did, they'd see that Phil can do some pretty neat things. Like use his computer

to review video of last night's game against



that Phil can get on the Internet and other on-line services incredibly fast and easy, so he can get up-to-the-minute stats and injury reports.

In short, they'd see that Phil has OS/2
Warp, a new multitasking operating system
that gives DOS and Windows* programs
amazing versatility. (And anyone who's ever

seen Phil coach, knows he likes versatility.)

Now, just so there's no confusion,

Phil's not letting anyone take a peek inside
his computer.

OS/2 Warp is available for under \$90.

(Or for just slightly more than the cost of a court-side seat.) To get warped, stop by your local software dealer, or call 1 800 3 IBM-OS2.

Ask for a free demo disk.

New York. At the exact same time that he's e-mailing a respectful appeal to the League. Of course, being a game day, he's also, at the same time, using a Windows™ graphics program to jot down plays.

They might also note that Phil never has to worry about totally losing it (his programs, that is) if an application ever goes down. And

The new 32-bit, multitasking, multimedia, Internet-accessed, crash-protected, Windows-friendly, totally cool way to run your computer. OS/2*WARP



REALITY? IT'S ALL HOW YOU LOOK AT THINGS.



Open your mind. Then open your eyes. And live a world where virtually anything can become reality. Fast action CD-ROMs and great-sounding speakers. Vivid Digital Multiscan® Trinitron® monitors. The revolutionary new MD Data. All designed to inspire your imagination. And expand your reality. The new reality. Sony Multimedia.

To find out more about Sony's Multimedia Products, call 1-800-352-7669 (ext. 108).





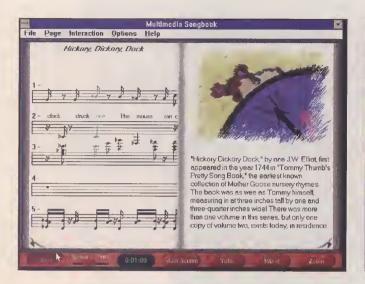
SONY

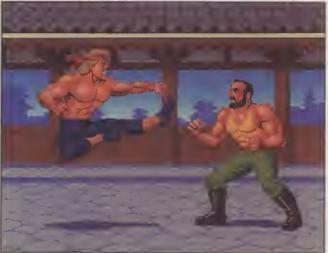
Tips for optimum viewing: Hold the image close to your face. Relax your eyes. Try to look beyond the image. Don't fixate on the details. Pull the image back slowly (about an inch or two a second). At a comfortable reading distance the 3D image will start to appear. Keep adjusting the distance until the image becomes clear.



Trinitron

© 1995 Sony Electronics Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. Sony, Trinitron, Multisean and the Inspiring Vision/Trinitron logo are trademarks of Sony.





البريدادا يعت

TITA

KEEPING TIME US. KILLING TIME

There are times when tearing out the heart of your opponent just isn't the right

thing to do. Like when you want to

express yourself, be creative, or



explore an art form with the family. For those times, nothing is more fun or rewarding than music software by Midisoft®.

Many of our budget-priced Windows programs give your PC the capabilities of an in-home music recording studio. Others

let you learn and explore the magical world of music. All offer endless hours of wholesome enjoyment.

Our newest CD-ROM, Music Mentor-Maestro Edition™, for example, takes you on an ever-changing journey through composers, performers, musical instruments, and music basics.

Or, there's Multimedia Songbook™, another new CD-ROM that's the next step beyond CDs and tapes, offering you a unique way to experience and creatively interact with hours of music.

With Midisoft Studio[™] you can record, compose, and print your own music.

Our MIDI Kit includes the world's most popular recording and composing software

> plus a cable for connecting your sound card to a MIDI musical instrument.

So, if spending

more quality time with your computer sounds good, see your software reseller, or call us today.



P.O. Box 1000 • Bellevue, WA 98009 USA Fax: 206-883-1368 • e-mail: salesinfo@midisoft.com

Free Catalog, or CD-ROM Demo Disk* 1-800-776-6434 or 206-881-7176



CompUSA • Computer City • Egghead Software • Electronics Boutique • Sears • Future Shop • Lechmere • Software Etc.

fun and games

GREAT ESCAPES FOR GROWN-UPS



Panzer General SSI (War games, strategy) Allies counter with their own tactics: Your weaknesses will be attacked, and Allied troops will retreat and regroup when you've clearly won a battle. Plan on spending about five to 10 minutes per turn; some campaigns can take as little as 60 minutes, while others take hours.

But strategy is only half the battle; smart resource management counts for a lot, too. You'll have to maintain fuel and ammunition levels, purchase new equipment and replace damaged units. If you don't plan carefully, the Allies will win and you'll be unceremoniously tossed back to the DOS prompt.

Expect to get the boot frequently at first; learning this game takes time. The tutorial in the manual will

walk you through the first campaign turn by turn, but it doesn't show

you how to win. Losing, however, helps you learn, providing insight into effective troop movements and exposing strategies that improve your chances in the future.

The disc's graphics aren't flashy, but they do enhance play. Black-and-white video clips of tanks and marching troops introduce each campaign, and the game punctuates attacks with fiery animation, including scenes of flaming tanks and infantrymen blown to bits.

One other feature helps make

If you fancy yourself a tactical genius or a World War II buff, Panzer General presents you with an unusual challenge.

Unlike many war simulators, this program stages most of its action on the ground rather than in the air. And instead of handing you the familiar role of the Allies, Panzer

*



1/

Spinning World War II strategy on its Axis

General puts you in Nazi jackboots and tanks and sends you out to overrun Europe and North Africa. (If you prefer, you can switch the settings and play as the Allies.)

Your mission starts in 1939 with the blitz of Poland and ends on

the Eastern Front in 1943 as you march the Axis forces across the Soviet Union. With 38 campaigns—each a distinct mission that must be completed within a predetermined number of turns, from as few as 10 to more than 30—Panzer General has great replay value.

During each turn, you'll position your tanks and troops and attack the Allies. You'll need to consider how the decisions you make now will pay off down the road. Of course, the

Also reviewed in Fun and Games

- Space Simulator
- ESPN Baseball Tonight
- The Mask
- Flash Traffic
- Gone Fishin'
- Tickeo

★ Reading the stars: Each program reviewed in this section is rated on a scale of 0 to 4 stars based on originality, puzzle difficulty, longevity, writing, characters, interface, learning curve, graphics, music and sound effects, user's manual and quirks.



this war game stand out from the pack: If you have an electronic mail connection, you can play Panzer General against

opponents anywhere in the world. To find a partner, look in Compu-Serve's Gamers forum (Go Gamers) or America Online's Games area (keyword: Games).

\$69.95 from SSI (DOS CD-ROM), (S00) 245-4525, (408) 737-6800.

Humming across the universe

Space Simulator

Microsoft (Flight simulation) "And I'm floating in a most peculiar way..."

When David Bowie sang that line as "Major Tom" in the song "Space Oddity," he added that his spaceship knows which way to go. He, of course, got lost. Yon—and probably Major Tom—are better off with Space Simulator. It puts you closer to the stars than any other software

in the galaxy. but leaves the fun of navigation to you.

navigation to you.

Developed by
e Bruce Artwick Organization, the

the Bruce Artwick Organization, the group responsible for Microsoft's popular Flight Simulator, the remarkably realistic Space Simulator lets you fly 10 ships to the farthest



reaches of the Milky Way. There's some game play—for instance, you can try to rescue the fictitious Zander Freighter, a 1,100-meter-long space station, from the inept pirates who captured it and sent it reeling out of control. But the program concentrates on exploring distant worlds, not facing down space bandits.

Space Simulator provides 60 excursions, such as a tour of four moons of Jupiter, and seasoned space travelers can create their own

flight plans. The program keeps score of how well you do for only two missions: the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing, and a shuttle mission to dock with Space Station Freedom, undock and return to Cape Canaveral (which, in this virtual world, never closes for bad weather).

But even if you saug along with Major Tom's space adventure, don't expect to hear the music that accompanies this game on the radio.



You can play any of 13 times, from the "Blue Danube Waltz" (as heard in 2001: A Space Odyssey) to a jazzy "Intergalactic Jam," but all sound tinny and are limited to a simple melody line with a 16-bit sound card.

Also, prepare for a steep learning curve. The 223-page "Star Pilot's Guide" walks you through the basics; use it in conjunction with the program's preloaded scenarios, and you'll learn enough to create your own missions. If you don't study, however, you may find yourself hurtling through space, Ground Control calling, "Can you hear me, Major Tom?"

\$50 (DOS) from Microsoft, (800) +26-9+00, (206) \$\$2-\$0\$0.

Baseball comes back, back, back...

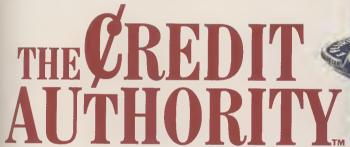
ESPN
Baseball
Tonight
Sony
Imagesoft
(Sports)

The crack of the bat. The roar of the crowd. The organ pumping "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." If you're like millions of disappointed baseball fans, you're wondering if yon'll ever hear these sounds again. Major-league stadiums haven't seen any action since last August. but thanks to ESPN Baseball Tonight, you can break out the peanuts and Cracker Jack: The national pastime

What's New?



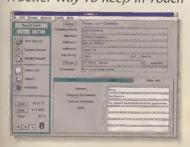
- EASIEST CREDIT SOFTWARE AVAILABLE!
- Fill out master application for hundreds of credit cards.
- Receive complete credit history and contest negative marks.
- Compare The Credit Authority's money-saving alternatives to your present credit situation.
- • Clearly track your financial future with a detailed budget section. $_{\rm Sugg.\ Retail}\,\$49.00$







A Better Way To Keep In Touch



- Organized Contact Manager
- Easy-to-use billing features with auto-timer
- Endless possibilities for home and work
- Keep in touch with the right connections.
 Sugg. Retail \$49,00





MOVIE BUFFET™ 95

THOUSANDS OF MOVIE TITLES at your fingertips! Ever spent hours at the video store looking for the right movie? Create a categorized list of movies instantly, choose your favorite, and GO! This easy-to-use program is updated semi-annually to bring you the most up-to-date video entertainment. Sugg. Retail \$39,00

CALL NOW and take advantage of our introductory pricing of \$9.95 EACH!
Buy any program and get the second HALF OFF! Buy three and get one FREE!

1800 549 IDEX

Introductory price for all products is \$9.95 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling each. Introductory prices are subject to change without notice and are non-refundable. Available on 3.5" disks only for Windows 3.1 or higher.

Idex 5oftware, L.C. P.O. Box 50323 Provo, Utah 84605-0323 Telephone (801)373-3060 Fax (801)373-3858



1995 ldex Software. All rights reserved. The Credit Authority, Stickit, Connect, Movie Buffet, and the Idex logo are trademarks of Idex Software, L.C. Company names and logos are trademarks of their respective owners.

is back on your home computer.

There's no labor strife on this CD-ROM, since you're both player and management in this big-league production. Pick one of the 28

major-league teams, for one game or a full season. Acting as the manager, you'll fill out the lineup

eard and make all the decisions. Then you'll don a mitt in the field and step up to the plate to hit, run, steal bases, pitch, eateh and throw. (A players' strike wouldn't have much impact on your virtual season; if you refuse to take the field, the computer will perform any or all roles in the game. This isn't a bad option for couch potatoes; it's similar to watching a ballgame on TV, but without the commercials.)

The inclusion of ESPN sportseasters Chris Berman and Dan Patrick, 15 major-league stadium simulations, and every team's official logo and uniform adds realism.



And for students of the game, ESPN Baseball Tonight includes the complete 1993 season statisties and prestrike results for '94. In the future, you'll be able to load statistical information for the season in progress—assuming there is one—from any on-line service.

\$69.95 (DOS CD-ROM) from Sony Imagesoft, (800) 922-7669, (310) 449-2999.

Don't get Carrey'd away

The Mask
Cambrix
Publishing
(Comics,
movies)



Parents whose kids loved last summer's hit movie *The Mask*, be warned: This dise, based on the eomie book that inspired the lighthearted film, is gory, violent and mean-spirited. Even if that's your idea of a good time, there's no reason to buy The Mask on CD-ROM. Aside from the oeeasional cool morphing sequences borrowed from the



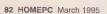
film (remember Jim Carrey's bigsereen faeial flip-flops?), the CD-ROM is simply a panel-for-panel rehash of the original eomie book.

In the story, a nerdy bank elerk. Stanley Ipkiss (Carrey in the film), discovers a mask that rids its wearer of all inhibitions and bestows indestructibility. lpkiss puts on the mask and, thus empowered, seeks revenge on all those who've humiliated him. In the film, he's more interested in misehief than malice. Not so on this CD-ROM. lpkiss is still a nerd, but he's teetering on the edge of sanity; his vengeanee is ugly and violent. And when a second eliaraeter, Detective Kellaway, puts on the mask, the story turns to vigilantism of the bloodiest kind.

The multimedia elements included on the disc add nothing to what you'd see browsing at a comies store. The words "BLAM BLAM BLAM" materialize on a drawing of a shoot-out, and flat, expressionless voices read the word balloons. Crunching electric guitar chords punctuate the destruction, but they add only an irritating noise to the static visuals.

The producers of this dise might want to hide behind their own masks. If the film was dumb, this CD-ROM is definitely dumber.

> \$39.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from Cambrix Publishing, (800) 992-5751, (818) 992-8484.



Freefall over 7000 ft...

Experience 20 high risk adrenaline pumping

sports

in awesome full-color video, photographs and interviews with daring atheletes in action

let Medio take You there



MEDIO MULTIMEDIA, INC.
Multimedia and Online Publishing

Available at your nearest reseller For information call 1-800-788-3866.





Just a nuclear waste of time

Flash **Traffic**

Tsunami Media (Interactive movie, mystery)



Flash Traffic gives you just 24 hours to save Los Angeles from a nuclear explosion. For anyone with decent logic skills, that translates into about three hours, real time. Not much value for your \$40.

Flash Traffic is just the latest example of a disturbing trend in



CD-ROM-based entertainment: Disc producers are paying lots of attention to glitz, but not so much to the

games themselves.

Here, you take the role of the FBI official trying to find the mastermind of a nuclear bomb that's set to detonate and send the City of Angels to kingdom come. Talk to the two known suspects, uncover a third, and you'll eventually find out where the bomb was planted. Bungle the investigation, and you can say good-bye to Hollywood.

The good news is, the game is easy for beginners to follow, sincevisually, at least—it resembles a movie. The live-action vidco—poorly acted but reasonably cohesiveoccupies the top two-thirds of your screen; the bottom third contains the three "responses" from which you must choose whenever your partner asks you to make a decision.

Unfortunately, you advance only if you make the right choice. Until you do, you have to go through the same video sequences over and over again. Reruns are bad enough on



TV; they're eertainly not any more fun on your computer screen.

\$39.95 (DOS CD-ROM) from Tsunami Media, (800) 482-3766, (209) 683-8266.

A little too much like the reel thing

Gone Fishin' **Amtex** (Sports simulation)

Gone Fishin' is a surprisingly accurate simulation of the freshwater fishing experience, which, depending on your point of view, is either a blessing or a cursc.

The action is slow, the rewards few and far between: Get in your boat. Find your spot. Bait your line. Cast. Wait. Wait. Worry when scrawny sunfish gobble up your minnows. Wait some more. Hook a five- or 10-pound bass and fight to reel it in.

Your fishing expedition takes place on Lake Ontario's Bay of Quinte. You can choose any location in the bay, but before you go, visit the Fishin' Lodge to meet an old salt who'll share a fish story or two. It can't hurt to read what he has to



say, since it often includes a useful tip or two. Then, drop into the bait shop to fill your tackle box with an allotment of both live bait and lures.

Gone Fishin' simulates the ways in which fish behave under different weather conditions, times of day and

water temperatures. It even knows which bait works best. If you're an inexperienced angler, consult your

"fishin' buddy," an on-screen helper who will suggest the lure and locations to attract your favorite catch. For even more specific detail, consult the paper map of "Fishing Hot Spots" that's included with the disc.

The first time I played the game, I caught two undersized sunfish and a perch. On a later trip, however, I landed a five-pound smallmouth bass. That may not sound like much of a haul to a scrious angler, but in real life I've never caught anything



bigger than a waterlogged sneaker. \$49.95 (DOS CD-ROM) from Amtex, (800) \$10-7345, (613) 967-7900.

Warning: This game has snide effects

Tickeo

Optimum Resource (Board games)



No one likes a sore loser; when the whiner is a computer, I draw the line. Tickeo never shuts up, even when it has nothing to say.

The program assaults you with wisecracks throughout its three incredibly mundane games: Tic Tac Toe; Overkill, in which you jump over and remove pegs from a board until a single, different-colored peg stands alone in the center; and Elimination, in which you try to remove marbles from an eight-row board.

Has anyone who made the first move ever lost in Tic Tac Toe? Not likely. So with the outcome pretty much assured, do you really need a Mac taunting you as you play? "Oh yeah? Watch this!" it says, as it puts down an "O" on its way to defeat. When it loses, Tickeo promises, "I'll get you next time." Yeah. Right.



Elimination and Overkill are no better. Lose, and Big Mouth might chide, "Bet you can't do that again." Win, and it's "You think you're pretty good, don't ya?" Yeah, I do. And now I'm gonna erase you from my hard drive. Nyah, nyah...

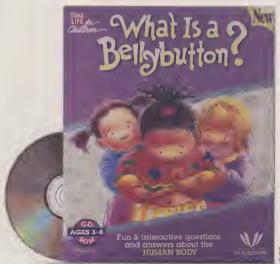
\$39.95 (Macintosh) from Optimum Resource, (800) 327-1473, (803) 689-8000.

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.

Smart parents have an answer for everything.



Smarter parents help their kids find the answers.



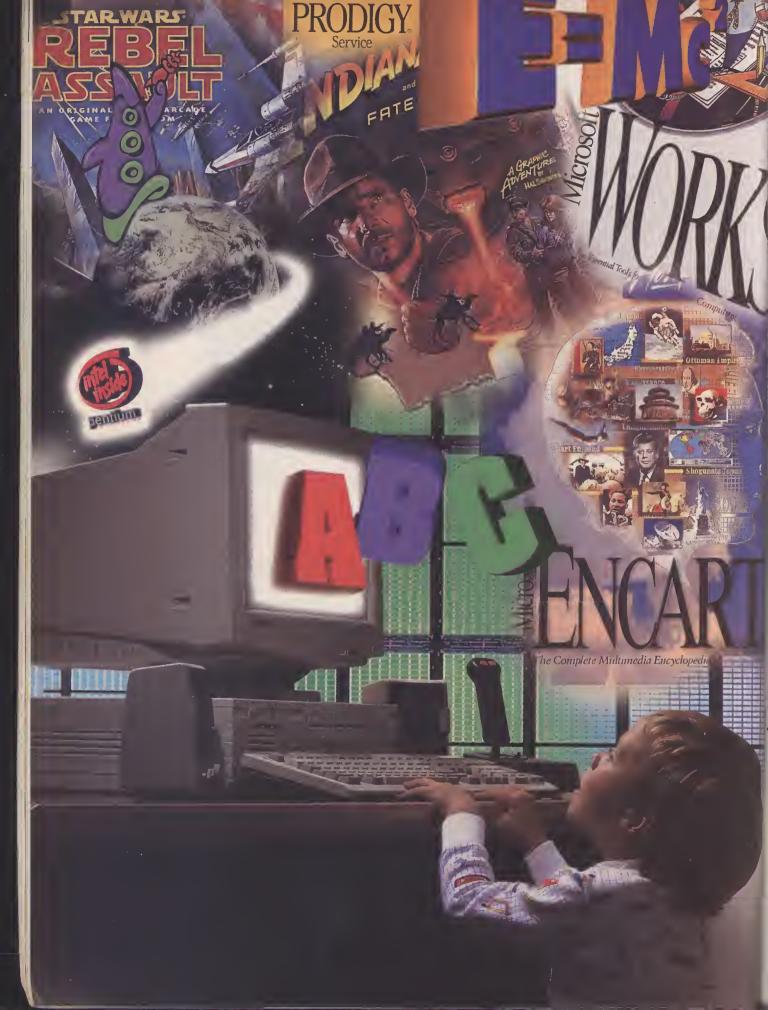
CD-ROM Windows'' & Macintosh

"Why do I have to go to the doctor?" "What happens to the food I eat?" Next time your kids ask you questions like these, we have the answer – What Is a Bellybutton? Memorable characters, colorful animations and health based learning activities make this story book format CD-ROM come to life.

See your favorite software retailer or call (800) 432-1332, Dept.370.



© 1995. IVI Publishing Inc. All rights reserved Time-Life is a registered trademark of Time, Inc., U.S.A. Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation, Macintosh is a registered trademark of Apple Computer Inc.



ImaginationStation

eet the newest addition to Micron's awardwinning line of PC's. The Home MPC: a powerful multimedia system bundled with great software for today's home enjoyment.

Parents. Learning is more fun than ever with Encarta® 95, Microsoft's interactive multimedia encyclopedia. Even adults finish their homework

faster with Microsoft Works and Quicken® Deluxe Edition on CD, a built-in fax modem and trial subscriptions to CompuServe, Prodigy and America OnLine.

hildren and adults of all ages will thrill to the latest CD games from LucasArts, including Rebel Assault, Day of the Tentacle, and Indiana Iones and the Fate of Atlantis.



433 Home MPC

- Intel[®] 486SX 33MHz processor
- Pentium™ technology ready (ZIF)
- 4MB RAM (expandable to 48MB)
- 210MB 14ms Enhanced IDE hard drive
- 2X CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit stereo sound card, joystick & speakers • 9600/2400 Fax/ Modem & WinFax Lite
- Local bus graphics (1MB)
- 14" Micron 14FG, 1024NI, .28mm
- Low profile desktop case
- Microsoft® Mouse, 101-key keyboard
- MS-DOS[®] & Windows[®] for Workgroups
- MS Works® Multimedia CD*
- Microsoft Encarta 95 CD
- Quicken® CD Deluxe Edition
- On-line trial services: Compuserve, Prodigy and America On-Line
- 3 LucasArts CD games: Rebel Assault Indiana Jones & Day of the Tentacle

466 Home MPC

- Intel 486DX2 66MHz processor
- Pentium technology ready (ZIF)
- 8MB RAM, 128K cache
- 420MB 14ms Enhanced IDE hard drive
- 2X CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit stereo sound card, joystick & speakers
- 9600/2400 Fax/ Modem & WinFax Lite
- Local bus graphics (1MB)
- 14" Micron 14FG, 1024NI, .28mm
- Low profile desktop case
- Microsoft Mouse, 101-key keyboard
- MS-DOS & Windows for Workgroups
- MS Works[®] Multimedia CD*
- Microsoft Encarta® 95 CD
- Quicken® CD Deluxe Edition
- On-line trial services: Compuserve, Prodigy and America On-Line
- 3 LucasArts CD games: Rebel Assault Indiana Jones & Day of the Tentacle

P90 Home MPC

- Intel Pentium 90MHz processor
- 8MB RAM, 256K write-back cache
- 527MB 12ms Enhanced IDE hard drive (PCI)
- 2X CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit stereo sound card, joystick & speakers
- 14.4 Fax/ Modem & WinFax Lite
- PCI 64-bit graphics accelerator (2MB)
- 14" Micron 14FG, 1024NI, .28mm
- "Tool-free" desktop or mini-tower
- Microsoft Mouse, 101-key keyboard
- MS-DOS & Windows for Workgroups
- Microsoft Works Multimedia CD*
- Microsoft Encarta® 95 CD
- Quicken® CD Deluxe Edition
- On-line trial services: Compuserve. Prodigy and America On-Line
- 3 LucasArts CD games: Rebel Assault Indiana Jones & Day of the Tentacle

\$2,499

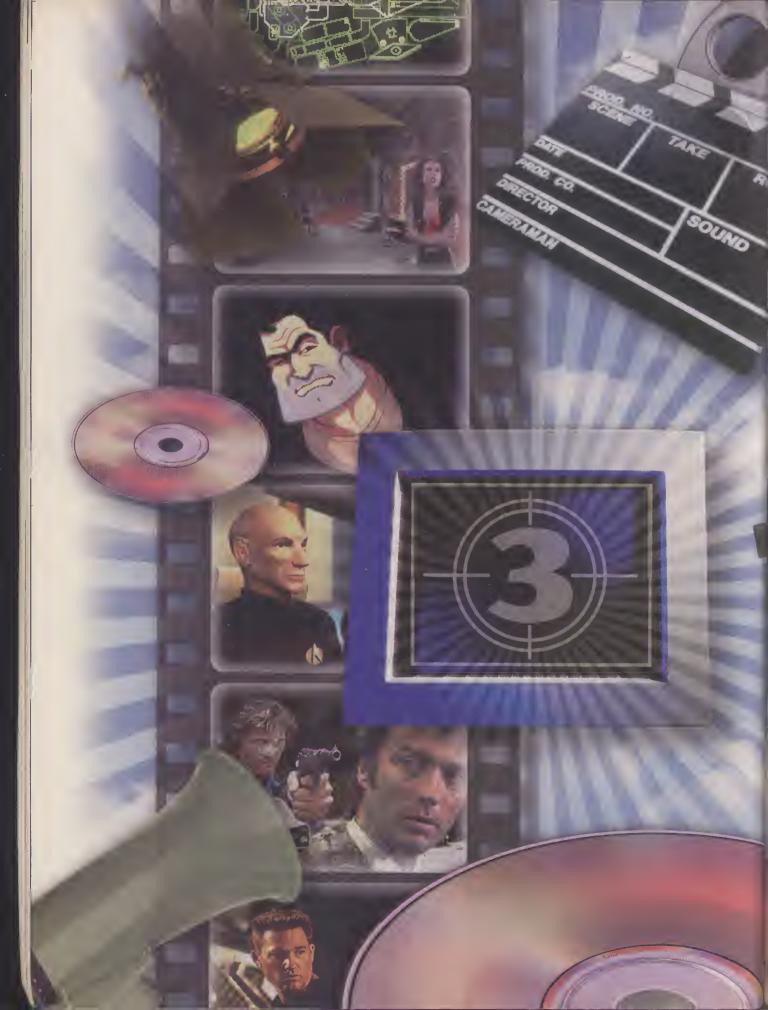


*Microsoft Works Multimedia and Office documentation on-line Hard copy available for additional charge

- NEXT DAY SHIPPING ON SELECTED SYSTEMS
- 30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ONE YEAR EXPRESS PARTS REPLACEMENT
- LIFETIME TOLL-FREE TECHNICAL SUPPORT



MON-FRI 7AM - 8PM, SAT 8AM - 5PM(MT) • 900 E. Karcher Road • Nampa, Idaho 83687 • (208) 463-3434 • FAX (208) 463-3424 • Purchase Order FAX (208) 465-8992



In the mid-1970s, a little-known actor named Mark Hamill landed a lead role in a science-fiction film called *Star Wars* by a moderately successful director named

hooray for LLYWODD?

Software

makers and

film studios

are reaching

for the stars

iu interactive

CD-ROM

games, but

they still

have a lot

to leavu

about what

computer

owners want.

George Lucas. Nearly 20 years later, Hamill's place in the galaxy of American popculture icons is fixed thanks to his role as Luke Skywalker in what became one of the most successful movies of all time. There's just one problem: When you've had that kind of success, what do you do for an encore? After years of sporadic roles in feature films, Hamill has embarked on a new acting mission. Portraying an intergalactic warrior once again, Hamill battles a race of giant catlike creatures known as the Kilrathi. But there's one big difference: This time, The Force isn't with him. You are.

Hamill's character, Col. Christopher Blair, is the central figure in a computer game called Wing Commander III: Heart of

HOLLYWOOD

the Tiger. His success in battle depends on your skill as a game player, and the choices you make dictate much of his behavior. When two women flirt with him, for instance, it's like an interstellar episode of *Love Connection*: Col. Blair goes with the woman you choose, even if it's not in his best interest. Spurn the spirited mechanic, for example, and the spaceship may suffer.

This latest installment in the Wing Commander series employed Hollywood screenwriters, producers, crews and faces familiar

storytelling flair can swing open the gate that separates interactive CD-ROMs from a mass audience. The studios can't afford to ignore a potentially hot new technology related to their business that conceivably could prove to be a cash cow.

No one knows what will ultimately emerge from the Hollywood-Silicon Valley convergence, but the first offspring of this union are taking their baby steps. Some are action-adventure games based loosely on movies, such as Blown Away, a "sequel" to the film that had a brief run in theaters last year. Others are "infotainment" titles—packed with crossreferenced, in-depth infor-

nation on a single subject

Hollywood rets Mark Hamill (left, from Wing Commander III) and Knrt Russell (middle, from Secrets of Stargate) come to your computer screen. Under a Killing Moon (right) is flashy, but will test your

to fans of the silver screen—besides Hamill, the game features Malcolm McDowell, seen most recently in Star Trek: Generations. and John Rhys-Davies. best known as Sala in the Indiana Jones movies. For Hamill, the chance to pioneer a new entertainment medium—interactive CD-ROMs—was too intriguing to pass up. "I feel that I may look back in 50 years and say, 'Hey, I was in at the beginning of this phenomenon,' just as actors at the end of the silent-film era may have felt when they began doing talking pictures," he says.

Executives from both the motion picture and the computer industries are betting on it. It's an unlikely partnership, but the conspicuously flashy moguls of Hollywood and the techno-nerds of Silicon Valley have suddenly discovered how much each has to offer the other—and presumably you, the consumer.

In 1993, shoppers shelled out \$6.5 billion on electronic games (including computer software), a figure that topped Hollywood's annual box-office receipts for the first time. Imagine, say the manufacturers of interactive software, what the two industries could do by joining forces. Game makers look at computer games that resemble movies and see huge dollar signs. So do the film studios, which bet that Hollywood's aesthetic and

and presented to appeal to a wide audience. For instance, Compton's NewMedia recently released Secrets of Stargate, a behind-the-scenes look at the making of last year's popular sciencefiction film.

But the most spectacular products are the games that employ Hollywood talent. A prime example is Under a Killing Moon. a liveaction detective CD-ROM featuring Brian Keith. Margot Kidder and James Earl Jones. Another is Star Trek: The Next Generation—A Final Unity, due this spring, an animated action-adventure game that has the look and feel of the popular series and the voices of all the main stars (for a listing of current and upcoming Hollywood-style CD-ROMs, see "Multimedia meets the multiplex," on page 95).

But for all the excitement about pooling the prodigious talents of Hollywood and Silicon Valley, the arrangement strikes many as a marriage of convenience with a questionable long-term future. The union brings together two very different business cultures that speak different languages.

When the folks at Starwave, a software company in Bellevne, Wash., first approached Clint Eastwood with the idea of doing an indepth "interactive documentary" based on his

computer's

memory.

career, their meeting didn't get off to a very auspicious start. The CD-ROM, they explained, would feature movie clips, still photos, exclusive interviews, home-movie footage and lots more about the man considered to be one of the world's top box-office attractions. At the first meeting between Eastwood and Starwave's executives, the actor reportedly

intention of bringing Hollywood-stylc creativity into the software world, and he's since learned that Hollywood attracts rightbrained thinkers. "Getting the two groups of people to see eye to eye is, well, a unique experience," he says.

During the making of Tuneland, a children's program that features the voice of co-

Hollywood execs love the potential of interactive software, but have a hard time accepting the limitations of the CD-ROM format.

kept his distance from the computer, sitting too far away from the screen to sec the demo product the company had produced. Ralph Derrickson, a Starwave vice president, recalls, "I asked him if he wanted to 'drive' the demo: he said, 'No, no.'

But after awhile, Eastwood began warming to the idea. He asked questions about

median Howie Mandel, Grayson recalls how he and his computer cronies cringed at the sound of some of the voices the movie folks developed for the animated characters. "They were pretty off the wall," he says. When they saw the end product, however, they realized that the voices sounded fantastic.



Charlton Heston's bible voyage (left) begins this spring; Aerosmith joins your **Quest for Fame** (middle); Star Trek's Final Unity (right) uses the voices of seven TVcast members.

eventually wrapped his hand around the mouse and started pointing and clicking like Dirty Harry.

"In the end," Derrickson recalls, "Eastwood said, 'This is cool; I can see what you guys are trying to do. Let me help you get what you need from the studios.'

Seismic culture shocks

Once the folks at Starwave got the go-ahead from Eastwood himself, they worked mostly on their own. However, software companies that require continuous, hands-on input from Hollywood talent—from screenwriters to actors to animators to musicians-may run into logistical roadblocks.

"Let's face it, we're all left-brained here." says George Grayson, president of 7th Level, a software company that divides its work force between Richardson, Texas, and Los Angeles. He founded the company with the

there was plenty the Hollywood contingent didn't comprchend, either. "The idea of the microprocessor as the engine as well as a pipeline through which you have to push everything is very difficult to understand," Grayson says. "And even when you understand it, that doesn't mean you always know what to do with it.'

The Hollywood people, he reports, had a hard time understanding that a computer monitor is fundamentally different from a TV or movie screen. Studio officials had to get used to the idea that the limitations of the CD-ROM format don't allow routine TV and motion picture techniques such as fullscreen panning or filling the foreground of a scene with action. "No matter how often we told these guys, 'This is not a TV, it's a computer," "Grayson says, "the next thing you know they'd say, 'But we do these things on TV all the time!'

And that was just in animation. Working live actors into interactive computer games

LLYWOOD

has its own special challenges, beginning with the script. People with experience writing scripts for computer-generated figures don't necessarily know how to craft dialogue and action for living actors.

Donna Burkons, the producer of Wing Commander III, comes from the Hollywood

the actors ahead of time. From their point of view, shooting the game looked and felt like doing a movie, but there were important differences. First, there was a lot more "green screen" work than usual. Hollywood studios create all sorts of special effects by filming actors in front of a blank, green screen and then superimposing their images on another seene. Roberts shot most of the

A producer saw a game script and offered immediate advice: 'You're making a movie—make sure it looks like a movie.'

community. She remembers meeting Chris Roberts, a vice president and executive producer at Origin Systems, which created the game software. Roberts showed her a script that had been written in-house. Her

live action in Wing Commander III in this manner and then placed it in front of a computer-generated background.

Another key difference in filming action for a CD-ROM is the need to reshoot the same scene again and again using dif-

ferent dialogue. Game immediate suggestion to him: "Get some scripts create Hollywood writers. You're making a a nonlinear story, almovie—make sure it *looks* like a movie. lowing a series of different out-Clint Roberts agreed. "We wanted to do the live comes depending on the player's choices action right," he says. "We didn't want it to Eastwood's at turning points in the narrative. In Wing look amateurish." The project's logistics Commander III, there are more than 300 retrospective

CD-ROM hits stores at Christmas (left); Malcolm McDowell from Wing Commander III (middle); Aerosmith plays a few bars in Quest for Faute (right).

ended up mimicking those of a traditional Hollywood production—scripted by screenwriters, cast through a Hollywood agency, produced by a film executive. One key difference was that Roberts directed the action-

his first time at the helm of such a production, but a role not unlike his previous experience heading up computer game projects, which also involved managing large groups of creative people.

Roberts apparently slid into the director's chair with ease. "It was an exceptional experience," says Burkons. "There was mutual respect throughout the project between the ac-

tors and the director.

"It's mostly a matter of being able to communicate," Roberts says. For instance, he carefully explained the game's format to scenes in which the player makes a choice that affects the action later.

In a theatrical release, notes Roberts, the director always knows where he is in the story, even when scenes are filmed out of order. When shooting an interactive script which may be two to three times longer than a script for a feature film—schedules can get a little more confusing. The Wing Commander script pages were split vertically, with one version of a seene running down the left side and another along the right. "Sometimes," says Roberts. "the actors would forget which side of the page they were on.

Continuity becomes crucial in this environment. If, for instance, six different filmed sequences branch off from one



HOLLYWOOD

particular moment in the program, the producers must make sure that everything matches—characters must be standing in the same places, clothes need to be buttoned the same way, hair must be parted in the same place and so on—for all six scenarios.

And there's not a lot of room for Robin Williams-style on-the-set improvisation in an interactive production. "We were very prepared and organized in advance," says Burkons. Of course, most Hollywood

solve is making the end product work as an interactive experience," Snow says. "It's a big mistake to assume that the video and audio side of things is more important, and that you just sort of add interactivity." Producers, he says, must weave interactivity into the very fabric of the project or it won't fly. Snow feels strongly that keeping Quest for Fame's central character off the screen makes the interaction much more powerful.

One of the first Hollywood stalwarts to anticipate the clash of styles between the entertainment industry and Silicon Valley was

Star Wars mastermind George Lucas, In 1982.



On the storyboards for the future: Full Throttle from LucasArts (left) and a Muppets CD-ROM from Starwave (middle). One of the Secrets of Stargate is now revealed on CD-ROM (right).

You are the guitar hero

While Hollywood talent and production values can make a CD-ROM more compelling, software manufacturers say it's important to keep sight of what's really the star attraction in a game—not the actors, not the writers, but interactivity itself. That's the secret behind Quest for Fame, an unusual game that mixes live actors and animation, and stars the rock band Aerosmith in a plot centered on the music industry.

A player triggers the game by strumming a "virtual guitar" that plugs into a computer and mirrors the look and feel of the real thing. The better you play in a variety of settings and situations, the higher you climb the music-business ladder. You're the rock star; the actors and cartoon characters look right at you when they have something to say.

Bert Snow, creative director for Ahead, the software company that produced the disc. acted as co-director on the set with Los Angeles-based film director Howard Woffinden. Snow spent the better part of a year in Southern California working on the production. "One of the most difficult issues to re-

he founded Lucas-Arts Entertainment in a effort to meld movie-style storytclling and production values with computer interactivity. The company found the magic touch with the hugely popular *Star Wars*-derived games such as Rebel Assault, X-Wing and TIE Fighter fixed at the top of the software sales charts.

The key to LucasArts' success, however, is that the company's software developers never set out merely to turn Star Wars into a computer game. They realized early on that a concept ereated for the big screen is unlikely to work as a CD-ROM without changes. For instance, the film leads inexorably—and suspensefully—to the demolition of the gigantic, predatory Death Star. In a movie theater, on a big screen, it's a dramatic, uniquely cinematic event. But for a game player sitting in front of a home computer, the scene is an anticlimax. LucasArts discovered that a series of small. quick, elusive targets is much more compelling to an interactive gamer than one monstrous, sluggish spaceship. So the company ereated a fresh Star Wars scenario for its games, complete with a new hero—Kyle Katarn—and a new class of enemics.

"Film is about delivering a two-hour experience," explains Daron Stinnett, project

MULTIMEDIA MEETS THE MULTIPLEX

Quick peeks at CD-ROMs featuring Hollywood taleut

NOW PLAYING

Blown Away

An interactive action game "sequel" to the '94 theatrical release, which starred Jeff Bridges and Tonnuy Lee Jones. From IVI Publishing.

Ghosts

A chilling adventure game starring horror-movie veteran Christopher Lee and real-life parapsychologists. From Media Design Interactive,

The Lion King

A storybook and games for kids ages 3 to 7, with animation and music adapted from the blockbuster movie. From Disney Interactive.

Multimedia Celebrity Poker

Put your cards on the table with Joe Piscopo, Jonathan Frakes and Morgan Fairchild. From New World Computing.

The Pagemaster

An animated adventure for children ages 8 and older, based on the Macanlay Culkin film of the same name. From Turner Interactive.

Quest for Fame

Featuring the rock band Aerosmith, this interactive game lets you talk—and jam on a guitar-shaped device—with the rockers, live actors and cartoon characters. From Ahead.

Secrets of Stargate

Go behind the scenes of the hit science-fiction film. The disc raises the curtain on the movie's special effects and includes production stills, storyboard illustrations and interviews. From Compton's NewMedia.

Tuneland

An animated songfest for kids ages 3 to 7 featuring the voice of comedian Howie Mandel. From 7th Level.

Under a Killing Moon

An interactive movie/detective game, starring Brian Keith, Margot Kidder and James Earl Jones, From Access Software.

Wing Commander III: Heart of the Tiger

Interactive goes interstellar with Mark Hamill and Malcolm McDowell in this battle-oriented action game. From Origin Systems.

COMING ATTRACTIONSBlack Diamond

Live-action interactive mystery, shot on the streets of San Francisco. Scheduled release: fall '95 from Electronic Arts.

Charlton Heston's Voyage Through The Bible

Hollywood's Moses leads animated tours of biblical settings and dramatized tales from the Old and New Testaments; based on the Arts & Entertainment miniseries, Scheduled release: spring '95 from Jones Interactive.

Clint Eastwood (not yet titled)

Lots of color on the Pale Rider, including film clips, interviews and anecdotes. Scheduled release: December '95 from Starwaye.

Conquerors

A game of conquest that will be released concurrently with the movie of the same name. Scheduled release: TBA, from Trimark Pictures.

Dark Forces

A 3-D animated action game featuring a brandnew fantasy inspired by the *Star Wars* film series. Scheduled release: March '95 from LucasArts Entertainment.

Johnny Mnemonic

Interactive game scheduled to debut alongside the Keami Reeves movie of the same name. Scheduled release: spring '95 from Sony Imagesoft.

Jon Dark-Psychic Eye

Mystery set in a 3-D world, featuring stateof-the-art animation. Scheduled release: spring '95 from CapDisc.

Pocahontas

An interactive storybook with animation and music adapted from the film to be released in late spring '95. Scheduled release: fall '95 from Disney Interactive.

Star Trek: The Next Generation—A Final Unity

An animated action-adventure game featuring the voices of seven stars from the intergalactic series. Scheduled release: spring '95 from Spectrum HoloByte.



HOLLYWOOD

leader on an upcoming LucasArts game called Dark Forces. "You see it in one sitting, and that's that. We don't have that luxury. People spend a lot more time with a computer game, and so they expect more." It's the developer's challenge to see past the special effects and focus on "keeping the person involved with what's going on," Stinnett says. The time a player spends sitting back and watching the action passively is wasted, and must remain at a minimum.

As sexy as actors and Hollywood-style production values in CD-ROMs sound, will they affect the way we play—or don't

RAM, but just try getting the program to run properly on a system with that kind of memory. It's not a pretty sight, no matter how advanced the game's graphics really are. Go to the manual, and you'll see the manufacturer's recommendation for a PC with 16 MB of RAM.

If you're truly interested in playing interactive CD-ROMs, you should consider a system with at least a 486DX, 50-MHz microprocessor and 8 MB of RAM. Even then, before you can play the game, you have to be able to install it on your computer so it works with your sound card and, in some cases, your video card. LucasArts offers software that will

locate and book up with

Dark Forces
(left) springs
from LucasArts later in
'95; Marina
Sirtis vecording dialogue
for Stav
Trek—A Final
Unity (middle);
in the trenches
with Under a
Killing Moon
(right).

play—interactive games? Many software manufacturers and Hollywood studios bet that the more computer games resemble movies, the more people who like movies—that is, most of us—will like computer games. Although hard-core gamers are passionate about many of the games they play, their enthusiasm has yet to break through to the mass market.

One problem is that most computer games are fun only if you have the time, equipment and know-how to play them. A compelling game should provide at least ±0 hours of fun. That amount of entertainment can justify the price of the CD-ROM, but how many of us have that much leisure time to devote to a game? At least one game manufacturer, Los Angeles-based Activision. is now developing "short-form mysteries" designed for busy people to squeeze in between appointments.

Then, too, in their efforts to constantly top themselves, game developers continually push the envelope of PC power and memory capabilities. Even if you have the time to play Under a Killing Moon, it may not work on your home computer. Sure, the game box says you need only 4 megabytes (MB) of

locate and hook up with your sound card automatically.

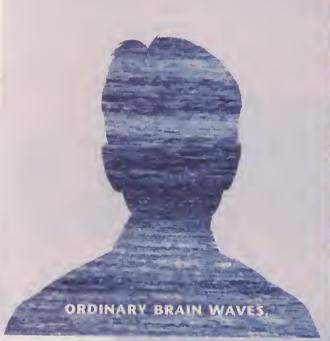
The complexity of most interactive CD-ROMs poses another obstacle for the general audience. It's common to get a game up and running, only to find you have no clue how to play it. Under a Killing Moon, for example, comes with a 50-page instruction manual filled with lists of keystrokes to master—hardly a selling point for the casual player. If this seems too dannting, infotainment CD-ROMs are generally easy to install and navigate.

Technical drawbacks and cultural clashes aside, executives from the motion picture and computer industries pronounce their budding joint venture as "the dawn of interactivity" and "a new frontier." More quietly, perhaps, they talk of the "multimedia gold rush." As these media prospectors pan for gold, sooner or later they may find a breakthrough interactive CD-ROM game—the motherlode program that's easy to play and exciting enough to enthrall an audience of non-gamers. And when such a success emerges, it's likely that it won't be because of the celebrities involved; the real star of these interactive games will be you, the player. That's a notion that could really set Tinseltown on its ear.

SUPPOSE YOU'RE READING A FIFTH GRADE SCIENCE BOOK. Yawn, not much to excite the neurons in here. Now, turn a 180° on the fun scale.

Windows,[™] Encarta[™] and Works. As well as Prodigy[®] and America Online.[®]

Here's a few more things you won't find on any ordinary computer.





You're seated in the cockpit of the space shuttle. Far below, mountains, continents and oceans spin by. Click the mouse and in the astronaut's own voice, history repeats, "...one giant step for man-kind."

With an AST Advantage!, you haven't just read the information.

You've listened to it, relived it, opened your eyes and let your imagination run away with it.

You can run all the latest computer software. In fact, we've already loaded Microsoft®

Our own AST Works. It makes everything easier, from start-up to getting help from a real person right on the screen. Now isn't that the sort of ingenious thinking you'd expect from one of the world's largest PC manufacturers? We've even built in the handy AST Teleworks. It's the ultimate communication system with fax/modem, voice mail and

speakerphone. For additional information please call us at 800-876-4AST. Then turn on

the Advantage! And open your mind.

YOU'LL LIKE THE WAY WE WORK"

486DX2 or Intel Pentium Processor.

Up to 8 MB RAM, and 1 GB hard drive.

> Quad speed CD-ROM, microphone, speakers, Soundblaster® 16-bit sound.



HL-630 LASER PRINTER



Great-laaking laser autput on a variety af paper types and sizes-simply, easily, affardably. 50% faster than 4PPM engines. Features 45 great-laaking fants, enhanced memary management, and mare.

IBM #37912

ULTRACOACH



Takes fitness management/training ta the next level. Plan yaur training schedule and track your pragress. Plus, get information an caurse rautes, equipment and mare. It's the ultimate training partner!

Windaws #38239

PICTURE PERFECT GOLF



Play the warld's greatest galf caurses-without ever leaving hame. Thousands of phatas, authentic galf shats, and digitized saund make this the mast life-like PC galf experience available!

IBM CD #35278

COLLEGIATE SCREEN SAVERS

an-line services.



Hamecaming far yaur camputer! Includes Camputer Card Stunts, Schaal Histary, ond Campus Life. Over 50 majar universities naw available. Call far availability af your schaal. After Dark campatible.

Windows and Mac

COMFY KEYBOARD

It's like having 4 cards in ane-Data Modern, Fax Modern, Digital Vaice Messaging, and Business Audia. Includes free 30-day membership offers to same af the leading

CONNECTION PRO



Children 2 ta 6 years ald direct interactive, animated mavies using a revalutionary keybaard. They cantral the stary-fram sequence ta stary elements ta characters. Enriches vocabulary, social skills, and mare!

IBM #38023

IBM #37974

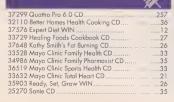
KIDS EDUTAINMENT

	-
38075 3 Foot 6 Pak for Children CD.	2
32070 Alge-Blaster 3 WIN	3
36339 AngTommy CD	2
38029 Christmas in Comfyland	2
38028 Comfyland	2
300/3 Explaring Ancient Architecture CD	
37053 Gus and the Cyberbus Sing&Play CD	2
36521 Harry and the Haunted House CD	4
36825 Kindergarten: Jumpslart CD	3
35615 Lion King Print Studia WIN	
37551 Lion King Storybook CD	
35566 Lavejoys College Counselar CD	3
36345 Magic 8ear's Masterpieces WIN	
37361 Magic School 8us: Solar System CD	
	2
36862 Mavis Beacan Typing: Kids WIN	2
35813 Mighty Morphin Pawer Rangers CD	2
38101 Nickelodeon: Afraid of the Dark CD	3
38 102 Nickelodeon: Directars Lab CD	
36828 Gregon Trail II CD	5
36968 Page Masler CD	4
37292 Peter and the Wolf CD	
37995 Reader Rabbit's Interactive CD	
37766 Reading 8laster: Invasion	3
32960 SAT NEW Personal Trainer 2.0 WIN	
36377 Safety Monkey CD	
36758 Thumbelina CD	
36379 Welcome to 8odyland CD	
36763 Where in the World: Junior CD	3

SPREADSHEETS

	120
33032 Excel 5.0 WIN	316
36138 Lotus 123 5.0 Upgrade WIN	97
36137 Lotus 123 5.0 WIN	310

HEALTH



DESIGN/PUBLISH	
37534 Card Shop Plus Deluxe CD	37
37991 Card Shop Plus Deluxe WIN	
36187 Clickbook WiN	43
34384 Corel Gallery CD	
37294 Corel Photo-Paint Plus 5.0 CD	120
33036 Creative Writer WIN	130
20944 Dabbler WIN	
37045 Fine Artist CD	40
33039 Fine Artist WIN	4.2
35749 Gift Maker WIN	
38454 Learn to do Desklop Publishing 1.0	33
33514 Microsoft Publisher 2.0 CD	RQ
31527 Microsoft Publisher 2.0 WIN	
38171 Morph WIN	
37468 Page Magic WIN	
36717 PhotoWorks Plus w/FREE Camera	27
36717 PhotoWorks Plus w/FREE Camera	
37126 Photography Made Easy CD	27
37009 Picture Publisher Live 5.0 CD	
33923 Print Artist WIN	38
36030 Print Shap Deluxe 2.0 WIN	
36031 Print Shap Deluxe Ensemble CD	
36710 Stationary Stare CD	
36709 Stationary Stare WIN	30
37987 Sticker Shop Plus	
31050 Word 6.0 DQS	
32876 Word 6.0 WIN	315
34604 Word Upgrade 6.0 DQS	119
32878 Word Upgrade 6.0 WIN	120
35190 WordPerfect 6.0 Upgrade WIN	
32211 WordPerfect 6.0A WIN	321

FINANCE/ACCOUNTING

37386 Charles J. Givens Money Guide CD	29
36194 DacEosy Accounting 5.0	88
34117 DacEasy Accounting W!N	88
38057 JK Lasser '94 WIN	21
38056 JK Lasser '94 WIN	21
38055 Kiplinger's Simply Money 2.0 WIN	30
36983 M.Y.O.8. Accounting 5 w/Payroll WIN	107
37662 Managing Your Maney 2.0 WIN	33
34082 Money 3.0 WIN	26
35015 Peochtree Accounting Deluxe 3.0 CD	108
28391 QuickPay 3.0 WIN	46
32000 Quickbooks 2.0	98
36840 Quicken 4.0 WIN	42
36838 Quicken 8.0 DOS	42
36841 Quicken Defuxe 4.0 CD	57
37883 Simply Tax WIN	30
37431 Taxcut Final 1040 '94 CD	30
37414 Taxcut Final 1040 '94 WIN	30

FINANCE/ACCOUNTING

	OK WANT
38031 Turbotax Federal '94 CD	43
38032 Turbotax Federal '94 DQS	37
38030 Turbotax Federal '94 WIN	37
38038 Turbotax Stole '94 DQS	25
38037 Turbotax Stale '94 WIN	25
38035 Turbotax/Quicken '94 WIN	58

REFERENCE

REFERENCE	1
35390 AAA Trip Plonner CD	37
35390 AAA Trip Plonner CD	30
20422 AulaMap 3.0 CD	46
32383 AutoMap Ski Resarts WIN	24
34083 8ookshelf '94 IBM CD	64
3/359 Cinemania Movie Guide 1995 CD	53
37756 Composer Collection CD	/0
36855 Encarta Encyclopedia '95 MPC	30
37140 Encyclopedia of Humor CD	
37345 Garden Companion CD	
32597 Gralier Encyclopedia 6.0 CD	
33982 Home Remedies CD	27
38069 I Do	CALL
37114 Infapedia CD	59
34727 Jab Hunter's Guide to Career	
31778 King James Electronic 8ible CD	
37115 Leonarda, The Inventor CD	
37253 Micro Kitchen Campanion CD	27
27680 Micro Kilchen Companian GQLD WIN	30
26758 Multimedia Bethoven: 9th Sympany CD	52
31806 Multimedia Mozart CD	52
31807 Mullimedia Stravinsky CD	
38066 Parent's Magazine Simply Kids WIN	
38068 Quick & Easy Wedding Planner	CAII
36110 Sharks1 CD	
37117 Supersanic: Atlas of Aircraft CD	33
36595 TriplePlayPlus! French CD	56
36597 TriptePlayPlus! German CD	56
36594 TriplePlayPlusI Spanish CD	56
38067 Wedding Workshop	CALL
36354 Weekend Home Projects CD	33
36111 Wings Qver Europe WW II CD	
35281 MS-DQS Upgrade 6.22	51
36989 QS/2 Warp 3.0 CD	
36991 QS/2 Warp Upgrade 3.0	89
36994 QS/2 Warp w/ Windows Support CD	118
35647 Windaws '95	145
34080 Windows 3.11	/8
34081 Windows 3.11 Upgrade	90
34001 Williams 3.11 Opgrade	33

LANGUAGES/ENVIRONMENTS

LANGUAGES/ENVIKONME	MIS
33603 11th Hour CD	51
35922 After Dark 3.0	30
34927 Apple Personal Diagnostics 1.1	91
32177 Better Hames Health Cooking CD	36
37358 Cinemania Movie Guide 1995 CD	53
29214 Civilization	42
35804 Internet Starter Kil 2nd Edition	25
37022 King's Quest VII CD	
33353 Lawnmower Man CD	
37116 Leonardo, The Inventor CD	29
37899 Managing Your Money 6.0	
31352 Mayo Clinic Family Health CD	
32472 Micra Kitchen Campanion '94	
32296 Myst CD	48
27940 Norton Utilities 3.1	
35331 Phantasmagoria CD	
34538 PhotoFlash 2 0	
36032 Print Shop Deluxe	
36839 Quicken 5.0	42
38084 Ram Doubler 1.5	
32616 SimCity 2000	40
35754 SimTower	
22090 Salitaire Antics	18
36830 Stor Trek: 25th Enhonced CD	
34351 Stor Trek: TNG Tech Manual CD	
27798 System 7.1 Upgrade w/Font Pack.	58
38174 Virtual Vegas Valume 1 CD	
37195 Voyeur CD	
37192 Walfenstein 3-D	35

MACINTOSH TITLES

20000 114 11 1011 CD	
	51
29037 7th Guest CD	
	44
	26
35442 Celebrity Poker CD	30
26806 Civilization	42
35717 Calanization: Sid Meier's	46
32782 Camic Collector	29
36302 Dark Farces CD	
36320 Doom II: Hell on Earth CD	45
35944 Family Feud CD	25
36979 Flight Simulator 5.1 CD	53
35315 Frant Page Sports: Football 95 CD	45
38196 Gadget CD	.45
31659 Galf MPC	43
34006 Hard8all IV	.32
32122 Harpoon II	. 41
34702 King's Quest Anthology CD	53
35326 King's Quest VII CD	49
36741 Lemmings Chranicles CD	36
32805 Lyrig Crosswords WIN	16
	46
OW LOO Merit Adultin I CO	40



The telephone voice mail system for your home computer! Select celebrity messages, or your own. Features speaker phone, callscreening, and more. Works with your modern, soundcard, and microphone.

CARDINAL WINDOWS FAX/MODEM

Capable of over 143,000bps through-

put! Uses newest modem technology to

eliminate hardware bottlenecks. Made

includes ÉZ-Install software.

34658 Mortal Kombot/GamePod Sundle

34693 Space Quest Anthology CD.
31656 Space Simulator.
34008 Spectre VR CD.
36803 Sports Illustr. Swimsuit Calendor CD.
34568 Stor Trek: TNG "A Final Unlip" CD.
34350 Star Trek: TNG "A Final Unlip" CD.
34350 Star Trek: TNG "Compilation CD.
36893 Storedeep CD.
37283 Street Flighter Compilation CD.
36819 TN Goulde Mult. Crosswords CD.
38236 Te Flighter: Defenders.
37565 Tronsport Tycon CD.
35816 Virtual Vegas Volume 1.
34276 Wing Commander Ill CD.
37687 World Series of Poker Deluxe CD.
36940 X Wing Collectors CD.

25160 Anti-Virus 2.0 WIN

38453 First Aide 1.2 WIN

38203 Hitchikers Guide to Info High. CD . 35805 Internet Storter Kit WIN . 38389 Internet in a 8ox WIN .

32689 Norton Antivirus Windows & DX 26453 Norton Utilities 8.0. Upgrade ... 32899 Norton Utilities 8.0. Upgrade ... 32891 Opus 'n 6ill Screen Saver WIN. 32612 PC Tools Pro 9.0. 36050 Procomm Plus 2.0 WIN. 32612 PC Tools Pro 9.0. 36050 Procomm Plus 2.0 WIN. 32613 CAPUS VINIO ... 32613 CAPUS VINIO ... 32610 EV VINIO .

24926 Anti-Virus 2 2 36465 Back-UPS 200 36312 Datasafe 2.0 WIN

UTILITY

exclusively for Microsoft Windows. Also

Mac CD #38022

4/19

ax/Modem

IBM CD #38021

AMORTIZER/EASY LANDLORD

IBM CD #36703

PHOTO CD ACCESS

Sentfactor



Buying a house? Planning your Retirement? Complex financial calculations are easy with Amortizer Plus! Whether managing one property or dozens, Easy Landlord's tools and shortcuts help make the job easier.

Windows #38275

569

.22 .42 .15 .18 .50 .42 .39 .26 .55 .41

.24

.54 .30 .45

.95

114 ..90 88

Manipulate photographs by clipping,

mirraring, rotating, zooming, or enlarging

and then export them to other applications

Even display your photos in a slideshow-

complete with accampanying music



Windaws and Mac avoilable IBM ENTERTAINMENT

JOYSTICKS/MICE

32883 Cybermon 3D Controller.	.43
31417 Flight Stick Pro	55
33855 Gameport 2000 Up to 80MHz.	.26
36953 MouseMan Sensa Seriol (Green)	53
35133 Phoenix Flight & Weopons Controler	.103
36876 Pro Pedols	75
30825 Thrustmoster ACM Game Cord	27
35104 Thrustmoster F-16 FLCS	112
38027 Thrustmaster FCS MK11 I8M	63
33344 Thrustmoster Formula T1 I8M	171
29522 Thrustmoster Pro Flight Control	112
38156 Thrustmoster TQS for FLCS	.111
31258 Thrustmaster Weapon Mork II	
36656 Wingman Extreme Joystick	42

SOUND CARDS

37753 Game Zapper	.42
37032 Phoneblaster	328
35480 Roland SCD-10 D8 Sound Canvas	CALL
35628 Roland SCD-15 D8 Sound Convos	CALL
32533 Sound Blaster 16 MCD ASP	172
32531 Sound Bloster 16 SCSI-2	172
34807 Sound 8laster 16 Volue Edition	93
37027 Sound Bloster AWE32 Value Ed	226
34661 Sound Bioster Pro Value Ed	74
34660 Sound 8laster Value Edition	52
30931 Wove8loster	178

SPEAKERS

24 500 1 1500 0	
36500 Jazz J-590 Speokers	63
36173 Koss HD- 50 Speakers	33
38255 Koss HD-100 Speakers	64
32228 Labtec CS-1000 Speakers	48
32101 Roland MA-12CP Powerd Speakers	176
35371 Roland MA 20P Powered Speakers	162
36813 S88 3 PC Computer Spk. Sys	100
38308 Vivid3D	57
37712 Vivid3D Plus	70
38455 Vivid3D Pro	104
37416 Vivid3D Studio	104

CD DRIVES

37007 3DO 8loster	380
35856 4PLEX Quod-speed EXT wo/ctrl	498
35855 4PLEX Quod-speed INT w/ctrl	469
36706 CD Upgrade Kit INT w/6 Microsoft	251
37031 Digital Schoolhouse INT CDROM	277
30216 Discovery CD16 INT CDROM	261
30746 Edutoinment CD 16 INT CDROM	424
38060 MultiSpin 2V Deluxe INT CDROM	300
38062 MultiSpin 2VI INT CDROM	179
38063 MultiSpin 3XP Plus EXT Kit	479

DYNAPULSE



Take accurate bload pressure readingsevery time! Connects to your camputer's serial port. Checks for irregular heartbeats, and prints reports. Ideal far fitness enthusiasts or people with hypertension. Mac #38025 Windows #38024



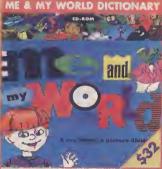
The first Windows compatible software to provide everything necessary to start exploring the Internet right away! Combines the ease-of-use of an online service with the worldwide resources of the Internet. Windows #38389

TV GUIDE/READER'S DIGEST



Attentian crossward buffs! Get two all-time favorites far only \$22 each! Each contain 30 specially designed puzzles of varying difficulty. Clues can be colorful pictures, interesting sound bites, or even video's! IRM CD TV-#36819 Reoder's-#36818

MY WORLD DICTIONAR



Kids have fun while increasing their vocabulary with this multimedia picture dictionary. Laaded with animations and objects, your child can learn 30-45 words with each picture. For ages 3 to 6 years Mac CD #37919 IBM CD #37918

CD DRIVES	(3)
38059 MultiSpin 3XP Plus Portable	402
34923 MultiSpin 4XE EXT CDROM	503
38058 MultiSpin 4XI INT CDROM	402
37028 Multimedio Office INT CD ROM	534
37026 Omni 4X	415
31809 OmniCD Upgrade Kit	181
38103 TEAC 4X Upgrade Kit	376
38071 TEAC CD-55A INT CDROM Kit	350
38233 TEAC SuperQuod 4X CD-ROM	248
MODEMS/FAXES	

31921 ACE 14 4 INT S/R-Fox W/Voice	208
38276 Cardinal MVP144E 14.4EXT F/M	118
38277 Cordinal MVP144IF 14.4INT F/M	
38275 Cordinal MVP144WIN 19.2INT F/M.	69
38278 Cardinol MVP288I 28.8INT F/M	178
38280 Cardinal MVP288XF 28.8EXT F/M	196
33712 Connection 14.4 Int. Fax/Modem	77
36266 Scout 28.8 VFCi VFost F/M	129
37972 Scout Classic 14.4 Ext	84
27993 Sportster 14.4 EXT Fax/Modem	114
28367 Sportster 14.4 Int. Fox/Modem	98
37599 Sportster 14.4 PCMCIA F/M	184

MODEMS/FAXES			
	V.34 Ext. Fax/Modem V.34 Int. Fax/Modem	. 23	

PRINTERS 34228 8J-10SX 8ubble Jet Printer... 36658 8JC-4000 8ubble Jet Printer 37976 Brother HL660 Laser Printer 37976 Brother HL660 Laser Printer 37978 Brother HL-660 Loser Printer 37978 Brother TN-100HL Toner. 37979 Brother TN-100HL Toner. 35800 Epson Stylus Color InkJet....

MEMORY/CPU UPGRADES

36147 1X3 Simms 70ns (4 Simms)	CALL
36136 1X9 Simms 70ns (4 Simms)	CALL
36149 4X9 Simms 70ns (4 Simms)	CALL
33620 Cyrix CX486DRX2-25/50 386DX-25	CAŁL
31738 Cyrix CX486DRX2-33/66 386DX-33	CALL
34409 Cyrix CX486SRX2-25/50 386SX-25	CALL
35134 Overdrive 486DX-50 CPU	CALL
35502 Overdrive 486DX-66 CPU	CALL
36727 Overdrive 486DX4-100 CPU	CALL
36725 Overdrive 486DX4-75 CPU	CALL
35500 Overdrive 4865Y2 50 CDLL	

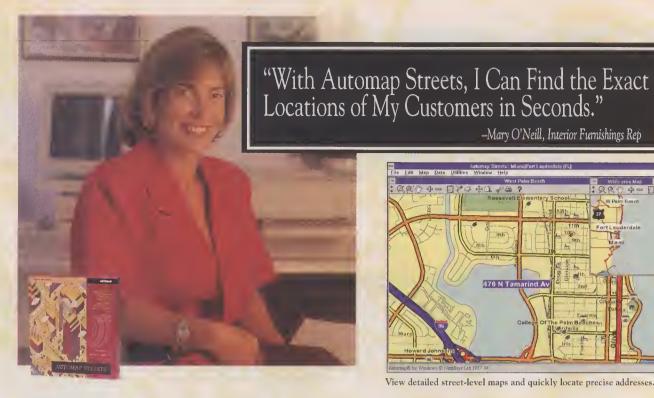
Complete on-line Catalog with over 5000 software and hardware titles.

Prodigy - Computer Express CompuServe - GO Express Internet-info@cexpress.com AOL - Computer Express

*No surcharge is added to credit card orders. *PO's, wire transfers, personal and coshiers checks accepted. *Some items are not returnable. Returns require outharization # and are subject to 15% restocking fee. *All items offered for sole are subject to availability. *We are not responsible for typographical errors. *Shipping and handling charges, please call for current offers. *All prices are subject to change without natice. *Intl. orders welcome

31 Union Ave. Sudbury, MA 01776 Info:508-443-6125 Fax:508-443-5645





Mary O'Neill's success relies on her ability to visit her out-of-town customers. Automap Streets is the CD-ROM mapping tool created for people like Mary and any traveler who can benefit from having street-level maps at their fingertips.

Automap Streets is the highest quality, most affordable street-level mapping program available. You can choose from 200+ wide-area maps- we cover the entire USA (excluding Alaska). Each map provides you with nearly every street in a particular city or group of cities, its suburbs, and the surrounding area.

It's fast, easy-to-use, and saves you time and money. Automap Streets takes full advantage of the CD-ROM environment. Work right from the CD, or download individual maps onto your laptop to take on the road. With initial purchase you get your choice of one wide-area map, plus four smaller downtown maps-free! And, order additional maps for \$30 or less simply by calling Automap and 'unlocking' the city or cities of your choice.

Automap Streets combines quality Etak data-the best in the industry— with our sophisticated mapping technology. So Automap Streets' maps are up-to-date, easy to read, and rich with details.

Call 1-800-564-MAPS today to order! Or visit your local software store.			
PRODUCT	PLATFORM	SRP	PRICE
Automap Streets (first map)	CD-ROM WIN	\$49.95	\$39.95
Additional Maps	CD-ROM WIN		\$30.00 or less
Automap Road Atlas	DOS-WIN MAC or CD-ROM WIN	\$99.95	\$59.95
Destination Europe	Add-On DOS, WIN	\$49.95	\$39.95
B 14 14 B			

Auditional maps	CD-KOM WIN		or less
Automap Road Atlas	DOS-WIN, MAC or CD-ROM WIN	\$99.95	\$59.95
Destination Europe	Add-On DOS, WIN	\$49.95	\$39.95
Destination Campground	Add-On WIN	\$49.95	\$39.95
Destination Golf	Add-On WIN	\$29.95	\$19.95
Destination Ski	Add-On DOS, WIN	\$29.95	\$19.95
Automap Pro	WIN	\$399.00	\$99.95

★ Add \$5.50 for shipping and handling, plus applicable sales tax. Prices good for a limited time only.



View detailed street-level maps and quickly locate precise addresses.

Automap Streets:

- Is ideal for business travelers, travel agencies, delivery drivers, dispatchers, sales departments and anyone trying to find their way around town or produce high quality maps in documents
- · Gives you detailed downtown maps of New York, San Francisco, Washington and Chicago in addition to the wide-area map you choose.
- Delivers the capability to locate almost any street, address or intersection easily on large viewing area.
- Can zoom-in on areas of your choice.
- Can print clear, detailed maps of any area.
- Links to Automap Pro (optional)-add your own sites to street-level maps and get database capabilities at street level
- Compatible with Automap Road Atlas (optional)

Also from Automap:

Automap Road Atlas™: The World's Leading Computerized Road Atlas. Quickly and easily plan trips between any two points in the U.S. and Canada. See maps on-screen or print out colorful, detailed maps showing you the quickest, shortest or alternative routes to take.



NEW Automap Pro™: Combine extensive database capabilities with detailed route planning. Business people and travel professionals who manage sales, distribution or any geographically related task will save time and money by locating their existing databases and sales routes on detailed maps.



NEW Automap Destination Series: Low-cost add-ons to your copy of Road Atlas. Get detailed information on Campgrounds, Golf courses, Ski resorts, and Europe.



AUTOMA

The easiest way to get from here to there.

Automap, Inc., 1309 114th Ave. SE, Suite 110 Bellevue, WA 98004 Tel: (206) 455-3552 Fax: (206) 455-3667

To stay healthy, you have to eat right, exercise regularly and see your doctor from time to time. Your PC or Macintosh is no different: It also benefits from preventive care and regular checkups.

One of the most important steps you can take to keep your computer in the pink is to

b v

e d

perratore



stock its medicine cabinet with utility software. Not only will these programs help you keep your computer fit, but when something does go wrong they can help you remedy the problem—fast.

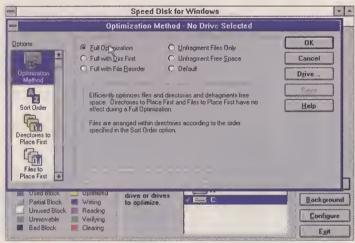
You may not realize it, but your computer already has some utilities, courtesy of its

computer
a painless
regimen
for peak
performance.



keeping your pc fit

DOS, Windows or Macintosh operating system. However, these built-in utilities usually have fewer features than software sold separately. That's why you may want to start with an all-in-one utility package, such as The Norton Utilities or a program in the PC Tools series: PC Tools for Windows, PC Tools Pro for DOS or MacTools Pro. Think of any of these programs as a first-aid kit for your computer.



Picking up the pieces: The Norton Utilities' defragging feature reorders your computer's hard disk for maximum efficiency.

While utility programs can work medical miracles on your computer, you don't have to be an M.D. to use them. In most cases, you simply select the utility function you want to run by clicking on an icon, choosing an option from a pull-down menu or by typing instructions at the DOS command line. Some utilities can be installed to sit in memory and pop up automatically when a problem arises.

Toughen up your hard disk

Your hard disk takes more punishment than just about any other part of your computer. Consider all the programs and files you install to, create on or delete from your hard drive. It's small wonder, then, that one of the most common hard-disk ailments is a loss of speed resulting from a condition called "hard-disk fragmentation." While this term may conjure up images of a platter shattering inside your computer, it's simply an apt description for the way a hard disk must often store a single file in several pieces.

A hard disk stores data in blocks of space. Let's say you have a new hard disk that stores 10 kilobytes (KB) of data. If you save a document that uses 4 KB, the hard disk stores it in blocks 1 to 4; if you next save a 3-KB file, it goes to blocks 5 to 7. But then you decide to delete the first 4-KB file and save a 6-KB

Files hogging your disk? Here's the skinny on data compression

You've trimmed all the fat from your computer's hard disk by deleting old and duplicate files and uninstalling unused programs. Trouble is, you still don't have enough space to install your latest software purchase. The solution? Wrap a girdle around the files on your hard drive by using a disk compression utility.

A computer's physical hard-disk capacity is limited—your system, for example, may have a 200-megabyte (MB) or even a 500-MB hard disk. While that's a fixed size, you can squeeze extra information into the space you've got

by using a compression utility, which will reduce the space your files take up by 50 percent or more. Software such as Word for Windows can be compressed on your hard disk when you're not using it. When you open Word to write a letter, the software goes into memory, where it fits.

File compression has become part of DOS itself. The latest version of Microsoft's MS-DOS, 6.22, uses DriveSpace (its own technology), while IBM's PC-DOS 6.3 currently includes SuperStor/DS. PC-DOS version 7.0, due to be released this spring, will

feature a compression utility called Stacker, which is also sold separately for DOS, Windows and the



Stacker doubles the storage capacity of your hard disk.

Macintosh (\$99.95 from Stac Electronics, 800-522-7822). Just how good is Stacker at squeezing data? In tests, it allowed a 340-MB hard drive, for example, to hold 719 MB worth of programs and files. —*E.P.*

document. There aren't enough contiguous blocks to save the 6-KB file in consecutive blocks. Instead, it saves part of the file in blocks 1 to 4 and the rest in blocks 8 and 9.

Thus, what begins as an efficient storage practice slows a hard disk over time. All that saving and deleting results in a longer wait to retrieve or store programs and data files, because the disk has to either piece them together or find enough nooks and crannies to tuck them away.

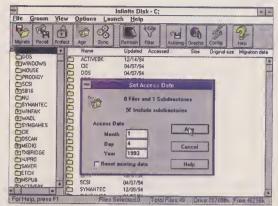
Luckily, a number of utilities can help restore order. DOS, The Norton Utilities and the programs in the PC Tools series organize your drive so that all the pieces of each file wind up next to one another. This process, which is called "defragging," makes it easier and faster for a hard disk to find a program or file or to quickly locate a contiguous space large enough to store a complete file. Defragging the files on your hard drive every two to three months helps keep your system running at a steady pace.



It's a good idea to 'defrag' files on your hard drive every few mouths with a utility program such as PC Tools Pro for DOS,

Another way to keep your hard disk lean and mean is to perform the computer equivalent of liposuction: If you're sure you'll never use a file again, simply delete it. But some utility programs help you keep a file or program on hand and easy to find if you think you may need it in the future, without taking up hard-disk space. This helps get a sluggish hard disk back up to speed and makes room for adding more programs and files.

One of the simple slimming operations you can perform requires assistance from a specialist—a utility program such as Infinite Disk. Once you install the software and specify what you mean by an "old file"—say, one you haven't used in six months—Infinite Disk monitors your computer and alerts you to files that are lolling on your hard drive. It then prompts you to transfer idle data or program files onto floppy disks—you just have to shuttle the disks



Infinite Disk looks for files you haven't used in a while and prompts you to remove them.

in and out of your computer. A record of these files remains on the hard disk; if you need to retrieve a document, Infinite Disk will tell you the floppy disk on which it's stored by the name you provide. Although any of the PC Tools programs, The Norton Utilities, or even DOS's or Windows' built-in utilities let you back up unused files on floppy disks, they won't give you a timely reminder to do so.

In addition to old files and programs, you may also have duplicate copies of a file on your hard disk. This often happens when you install new software and introduce files, such as those with .dll extensions, that your PC already has from another source, such as Windows. Utilities such as Personal Diagnostics, WinChecklt and WinProbe hunt down and eliminate duplicate and old files from the hard drive.

Unlike Infinite Disk, these diagnostic utilities are general practitioners that also can identify a range of computer problems. You can turn to them, for example, to figure out why the sound board you just installed won't play music selections from a multimedia CD-ROM. But these utilities aren't always detail-oriented when it comes to backing up your data; for instance, they won't automatically prompt you to save the files they find to floppies.

If you're a Windows user, you can perform another type of nip-and-tuck operation: Use an "uninstall" utility to get rid of programs





keeping your pc fit

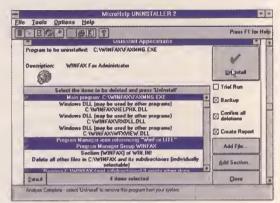
you no longer want. You might think this is as easy as eliminating the program directory and all the files in it, but some programs installed under Windows scatter their files over several directories or even change files with .imi extensions. (These files store important information for Windows.) So when you delete a program directory, you may not have eliminated the entire program or all references to it, and that can slow Windows down. An uninstall utility removes all the files that make up a program and every change the program made to other files.

WinCheckIt and some other diagnostic utilities include uninstall features, but programs such as Remove-It, Uninstaller and Uninstall-it! specialize in the procedure. You typically select a program icon or group to uninstall, review the uninstaller's analysis of files it considers removable and accept either all its suggestions or as many as you like. The utilities usually keep a log of the

programs you've uninstalled, and let you make backups in case you want to reinstall them later.

Forget about memory problems

When your programs are not in use, they cool their heels on your hard drive. But when you call them to attention, they march over to



Uninstaller suggests Windows files you can remove to make better use of disk space.

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the utility software mentioned in this article.

DataSafe

Landmark Research International, (500) 653-6696, (513) 443-1331 \$99 (Windows)

Infinite Disk

Chili Pepper Software. (\$00) 395-1812, (404) 339-1812 \$129 (DOS, Windows)

MacTools Pro PC Tools for Windows PC Tools Pro for DOS

Central Point Software, (\$00) 964-6596, (\$03) 690-\$088 \$99.95 (DOS, Windows) \$149.95 (Macintosh)

Norton AntiVirus Symantec AntiVirus

Symantec, (500) +41-7234, (503) 334-6054 \$99, Symantec AntiVirus (Macintosh) \$129, Norton AntiVirus (Windows)

The Norton Utilities

Symantec, (S00) 441-7234, (503) 334-6054 \$149 (Macintosh) \$179 (DOS, Windows)

OptiMem

Jump Development Group, (800) 586-7622, (412) 681-2692 \$129 (Macintosh)

Personal Diagnostics

Apple Computer, (800) 769-2775, (405) 996-1010 \$129 (Macintosh)

Remove-It

Vertisoft Systems, (800) 466-5575, (415) 956-5999 \$69.95 (Windows)

Uninstaller

MicroHelp, (800) 922-3383, (404) 516-0899 \$69.95 (Windows)

Uninstall-it

Landmark Research International, (\$00) 653-6696, (\$13) 443-1331 \$69 (Windows)

VirusScan

McAfee Associates, (500) 566-6555, (408) 955-3832 \$129.99 (DOS, Windows)

WinCheckIt

Touchstone Software, (\$00) 531-0450, (714) 969-7746 \$49.95 (Windows)

WinProbe

Landmark Research International, (800) 683-6696, (813) 443-1331 \$99 (Windows)

WinSleuth Gold Plus

E Ware, (\$00) 743-\$645, (212) 564-7791 \$99.95 (Windows)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.

Welcome to Skullkeep...



We haven't eaten in a while.



The Legend of Skullkeep

It's the role of a lifetime. The granddaddy of all role playing games is back...bigger and badder than ever. Introducing Dungeon Master II, a role playing game of epic proportions.

From storm ravaged villages to trap-filled dungeons you'll face creatures and characters that actually think for themselves and

FTE react to your actions. You'll encounter





cunning traps and clever puzzles, plus amazing visual effects. Bolts of lightning and awesome displays of magic will make it all the more frightening.

It's easy to learn and intuitive to play. No wonder it's the game everyone is talking about.

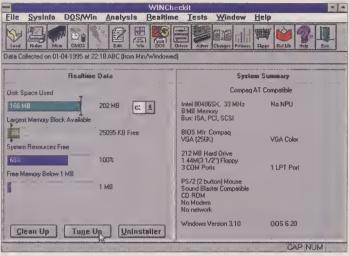
Dungeon Master II. The ultimate quest of dungeons, magic and monsters.



Available for your IBM PC and Macintosh. See your local software retailer or call 1-800-969-GAME. 17922 Fitch Avenue Trvine CA 92714 (714) 553-6678

keeping your pc fit

memory, where you can run them. Just as your hard disk can find and store data faster when the pieces of the file are all together, a program runs fastest when it is loaded into a contiguous block of memory.



WinCheckIt keeps your software running at top speed by organizing blocks of memory on your computer.

The more frequently you open and close programs during a single computing session, the less efficiently the programs you're using will run. That's because they've been forced to spread out over several unconnected blocks of mcmory. Here's where utilities such as Opti-Mem, PC Tools Pro for DOS, WinChecklt, WinProbe and WinSleuth Gold Plus come in handy. These programs can help software run at top speed by reordering scattered blocks of memory into contiguous sections. DOS and the Macintosh operating system do some of this memory housekeeping, but they aren't nearly as efficient as the utilities.

Don't let viruses bug your computer

One of the biggest threats to a PC or Mac is computer viruses, which are often borne by tainted files and programs and can make

your machine feel very ill in a hurry. To keep an annoying or even destructive strain from infecting your programs and data, administer regular antivirus shots. Most anti-virus utilities

can be installed in memory, where they scan your computer for problems each time you turn it on. You can also set most anti-virus programs to scan new floppy disks and inspect any files you receive over your modem from on-line services or bulletin boards.

When an anti-virus utility de-

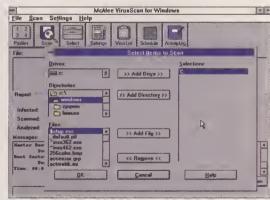
tects trouble on a disk or in memory, it fights off the infection. Typically, the program will ask if you want to perform a procedure that destroys the virus and restores as many of the infected files as possible to their original condition. All you have to do is answer Yes.

DOS includes anti-virus protection but it won't detect as many threats as Norton Anti-Virus, Symantec AntiVirus, PC Tools for Windows, PC Tools Pro for DOS, MacTools or VirusScan. If you hook up to on-line services or exchange floppy disks with friends and associates frequently, it's a good idea to use one of these specialized programs. In many cases, anti-virus software publishers will offer free updates to their database of known viruses.

Emergency! Emergency!

No matter how well you take care of your system, accidents happen. Many computer users inadvertently erase important files from time to time. If you make this mistake, keep a cool head and reach for one of the programs in the PC Tools series, The Norton Utilities or even DOS itself. All have an "undelete" feature that can bring most files back to life. When you delete a file, your hard disk simply removes part of its name from its list of files. But the information is still there—unless another file has taken its place. Be sure you run the undelete function before you store another file.

Another common accident is reformatting a floppy disk—or, even worse, your hard disk. When you format a disk, you organize its storage space so that you can find the information on it. If you mistakenly reformat a



VirusScan checks programs for infection before they can spread throughout a system.

floppy disk—say you're not diligent about labeling your floppies, and you forgot you still have some data files on them—all the old files on the disk are erased. While it's more difficult to reformat a hard disk accidentally, if you're not paying attention you could type format C: at the DOS command line when you mean to type format A:. Even though a

warning message pops up, if your fingers are working faster than your brain, you could mistakenly answer that you want to plow ahead with the formatting.

With PC Tools for Windows, PC Tools Pro for DOS, The Norton Utilities or even plain old DOS, you can reverse the formatting procedure and restore your original data.

These situations are just the tip of the emergency iceberg. Sometimes, for instance, a Windows program halts your work with a General Protection Fault (GPF) message. If this happens, simply reload the software that



was open at the time, but any data you hadn't saved will be lost.

To help avoid this problem, install a utility program such as WinProbe or DataSafe that resides in memory and keeps an eye out for trouble. Neither can stop a GPF, but both will step in and prompt you to save the data you're working with before the software locks up. These utilities document the error. too, so you can take steps to avoid it in the future, such as not loading certain programs together. If you have PC Tools Pro for DOS and run it under Windows, a feature called CPR can help in such situations, too. CPR won't intercept a Windows GPF message, but it periodically saves your work. If a GPF occurs, chances are good that much of your data already will have been saved.

No computer problem is minor when it affects your work. With the right utility programs, you've got a computer cabinet full of software remedies and potions that can protect your computer against illness or make everything all better when sickness strikes. You'll feel better, too—without even reaching for the aspirin.

Ed Perratore is a freelance writer in Mount Kisco, N.Y.

With the new 3D Landscape, it's easy to design stunning landscapes of any scale. Just use a little imagination, and an IBM PC 386.

First, choose from five landscape types, from small city yard to formal landscape. Then click in gardens, terraces, play areas, walkways, and much more. Choose from 400 kinds of plants, based on visual texture, soil, climate, sun, size and price. The program helps you make all the right choices, even the perfect lawn grass.

You'll view your creation in 3D, from nearly any angle. Plan where shade falls as the sun crosses the sky with the unique Shadow Caster. And make printouts, too. No other tool encourages so much creativity.



With <u>Design and Build YOUR DECK</u>, you'll start with one of four basic deck blueprints, then expand, revise and improvise, all with the drag of a mouse. Imagine how much money you'll save



MHAI MY COMPUTER DID A handy multimedia
"how-to" guide explains
all sorts of landscaping principles and techniques.
Like accounting for the seasons. Just point and click, and watch summer turn into fall.



What 3D Landscape does for landscaping, Design and Build YOUR DECK does for building decks. It lets you visualize your ideas,

then shows you precisely how to make them happen, with easily revised blueprints, material lists, prices, cost-

cutting tips and detailed construction techniques.

Both titles are at software retailers now.

Or call (800) 242-4546 ext.102. Now seriously. Did you ever think your computer would be so good at yard work?

Books That Work, Design & Build Your Deck, and 3D Landscape are registered trademarks of Books That Work, Inc. © Copyright 1994, Books That Work, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



BOOKS THAT WORK "Life is full of little disappointments: don't let Windows be one of them."

It's a fact. Life is full of little disa, p intments. And Windows can be one of them, It can crash, lose your valuable data, run as slow as molasses, and consume your drive-space with unwanted programs you can't remove. The good news is it's not your fault. Landmark has the solutions for you. Our Windows software is strong enough for power users, yet easy enough for folks who are just starting out.



What to do when Windows won't work

As if system crashes and lockups weren't enough, you have to put up th your hardware and software breaking too. If you're lucky snough to have a repair technician as your neighbor, you're all set.

The rest of us need WINProbe, the Troubleshooter Toolbox for Windows. WINProbe helps you isolate the problem, whether it's hardware, software or configuration. If you can't fix the problem yourself, you'll know exactly what's wrong when you do call for help. You'll slash downtime, telephone support time, and your repair bills. WINProbe contains a virtual encyclopedia of Windows tune-up suggestions - wer 300 in all - that will speed up your PC and conserve your RAM and hard disk space. And WINProbe automatically monitors and mes your memory and Windows system while you work. PC Computing called WINProbe "A bargain worth writing home about."

Octane booster for your PC

Just like STP Octane Booster cleans your car engine and boosts your horsepower, Uninstall-it! cleans your hard drive and speeds up your system. You see, loading programs into Windows is easy. Getting them completely out is not. When you leave unused files or programs on your hard drive you're wasting storage space and slowing Windows down. Simple file or directory deletions still leave stray parts behind, hidden in obscure locations. Uninstall-it! scours those scattered locations and "uninstalls" the leftovers like no other softare can. If you don't want to totally delete something, Uninstall-it!



lets you compress, back up and then restore again in seconds. Uninstall-it! even allows you to move Windows programs around between hard drives and directories without losing their hidden references. Uninstall-it! makes your system a clean, mean, high performance machine.

Crashproof Windows

It's 2:30, you've been working through lunch on a multimedia presentation, the meeting's in 30 minutes. You switch programs to FAX a quick note and "ZAP", you're locked up, staring at the Windows fatal error massage. You have to reboot and you've lost all

your work. It happens to all of us sooner or later, that's why you need Landmark DataSafe, the #1 most effective way to stop data loss due to fatal errors in Windows. DataSafe is simple to install, and even easier to use. Once loaded, it automatically goes to work every time you start Windows. You won't even know DataSafe is there protecting you until disaster tries to strike. No matter what programs you use



- graphics, database, spreadsheet, writing, games or communications

- DataSafe carefully monitors their behavior as they interact with Windows. When DataSafe senses a fatal error coming, it intercepts and presents you with a simple screen that allows you to recover and save your open data to a new file. With DataSafe, you get the advance warning you need to feel safe and secure. It can mean the difference between successfully saving your work or laboring for hours to recreate it. Windows Sources called DataSafe "...a must have."

We're here to help you

Having the best products is just the start.

Landmark is committed to providing you with a total solution that's guaranteed to work.

That's why we're one of the few companies left that offers toll-free, no-fee product support

and a 90-day money-back guarantee*. So don't let Windows be one of life's little disappointments. Get the products, help and support you need to make Windows work hard for you only from Landmark.

"Call for your FREE Windows Newsletter."

You can start avoiding those little disappointments right now, for FREE. Call today and we'll send you a free copy of

Landmark's popular newsletter,

The Windows Troubleshooter.

In every issue you get the tips, tricks and up-to-date advice that take those little disappointments out of using Windows. It's free for the asking. Call today.



Call: 800-683-6696

Outside U.S. (813) 443-1331 FAX: (813) 443-6603

MIANDMARK

RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

703 Grand Central Street, Clearwater, FL 34616

Landmark Research software is available from retailers everywhere, including Babbages, Best Buy, CompUSA. Computer City, Egghead, Electronics Boutique, Fry's, Future Shop, Lechmere, Micro Center Software Etc., and more. Call (800) 683-6696 for the outlet nearest you.

hide and

showroom
for a look
at furniture
that stores
a PC—and

fits with

vour decor.

No matter how much you love your PC, do you really want to look at it all day? If PC equipment cramps the style of your living room, dining room, bedroom or den, hideaway computer furniture can bridge the gap between your data and decor. The 12 pieces we've chosen show traditional, contemporary, country and modern styles. When open, each is a roomy home office, providing easy access to a desktop or tower PC, 17-inch monitor, keyboard, printer and accessories. Closed, each space-saver makes the room a space to savor. by ellen frankel



The classic rolltop desk is a natural hideaway for a computer. This adaptation of the rolltop for high-tech

gear retains an authentic Victorian look thanks to a vintage medium-oak finish. The desk's design and compact styling make it ideal to fit a small space in a bedroom or living room. 46%"W x 28"D x 49%"H. \$\$75 from Riverside Furniture, (501) 785-8165.

go chic

The Computer Pod gives your home a futuristic touch. The sleek, perforated aluminum oval stands on wheels, so it's easy to position in different parts of a room. When you're not working at the computer, simply close it up and admire it as a 21st century metal sculpture. 73%"W x 28"D x 56"H (open); 36"W x 32"D x 56"H (closed). \$4,040 from Design Institute America, (812) 482-4632.

Tuck the Computer Cabinet comfortably into a corner of any room in your home. With the doors shut, this elegant piece takes up little space—even the adjustable desk chair folds up and slides neatly into a knee-high compartment. The wood is a blend of cherry veneers and maple solids, and the design's strong traditional lines are certain to command attention. 55% "W x 24½"D x 75"H. Cabinet, \$1,599; desk chair, \$399 from Hooker Furniture, (703) 632-2133.



hide and go chic

It takes about two hours to assemble the contemporary rolltop Workstation. But once it's complete, all the parts lock together and remain secure. The cabinet's on wheels, making

it casy to try the unit in different rooms to see where it looks best. 37% W x 24 D x 48 H. \$609.95 from Bush Industries, (800) 727-2874, (716) 665-2000.



This hand-painted Italian Harlequin chest and its companion computer hutch call to mind an 18th century secretary. The sophisticated design of the two picces, which features creamand gold-paneled doors, complements both casual and formal room decors equally well. Chest, 44"W x 18"D x 31"H; hutch, 44"W x 13"D x 47"H. Chest, \$749; hutch, \$699 from Domain Home Fashions, (800) 374-9446, (617) 769-9130.



53½"W x 23¾"D x 48"H. \$349.99 from O'Sulliwan Industries, (800) 327-9782, (417) 682-3322.



ebony laminate components, is easy to assemble.





Renowned as advocates of the simple life, the Shakers might be surprised to find their charming furniture styles adapted to house state-of-the-art computer systems. This Chatham cabinet, with a country cherry finish and a V-shaped back, fits snugly into the corner of any room, reflecting the Shakers' love for practical design. 53"W x 22"D x 62"H. \$3,510 from Drexel Heritage Furnishings, (800) 436-1986, (704) 433-3000.

Green accent pieces are filtering into home decor, expressing a taste for furniture that evokes the great outdoors. The traditional Hamilton House home office center, ideal for your living room or den, hides high-tech equipment in the arms of nature. Computer unit, 44%"W x 23"D x 62%"H; side units each 26"W x 17%"D x 57"H. \$3,057 (for all three pieces) from Hammary, (704) 728-3231.

This louvered-door, drop-lid computer desk looks compact from the outside, but it conceals a vast space for all your computer components and accessories. You'll find three shelves hidden behind the upper doors, and



the large storage area at the bottom has yet another shelf. The soft-white finished maple exterior complements both contemporary and traditional decors and keeps the mood light. 34 "W x 22 "D x 80 "H. \$1,349 from Dillon Furniture, (803) 774-4124.

hide and go chic

(best

Settle in at a computer housed in the Freuch Chateau Computer Cabinet and you'll be working in the lap of luxury. Crafted of poplar solids and maple veneer, the cabinet features graceful lines, a painted teal finish, an antique white interior and a beautifully detailed, hand-painted decorative floral motif on the doors. It's a piece designed for a eastle—that is, your home. 47 W x 24 % D x 75 1/2 11. \$2,900 from The Romweber Company, (\$12) 934-3485.

Fold back the arched panel doors of the Computer Workplace, reach into its pocket compartment and pull out a comfy chair. The

eabinet, made from hardwood solids and veneers with a Saratoga Cherry finish, stylishly

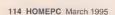


houses a complete home office. Computer Work-place, 48"W x 24%"D x 68"H; chair, 19½"W x 22"D x 35"H (seat height, 18¼"). Work-place, \$2,475; chair, \$375 from Sligh Furniture, (616) 392-7101.

Innovation lies behind this oak rolltop's down-home guise. Take a seat and peer through the desktop's glass surface to see your recessed monitor, pitched at an angle that promises less strain on your neek. And with the monitor under glass, you have more surface space free for paperwork. 62"W x 36"D x 52"H. \$3,600 from Winners Only, (800) 266-WOOD, (619) 941-9559.

Ellen Frankel is president of ECPM, a consulting firm in New York that specializes in home design projects.

Note: All listed prices are approximate retail.





TO CREATE THE ULTIMATE STAR WARS EXPERIENCE WE HAD TO SET OUR SIGHTS A LITTLE HIGHER.

DARK FORCES™

FIRST PERSON FIREPOWER IN THE STAR WARS UNIVERSE, AVAILABLE NOW ON CD-ROM.





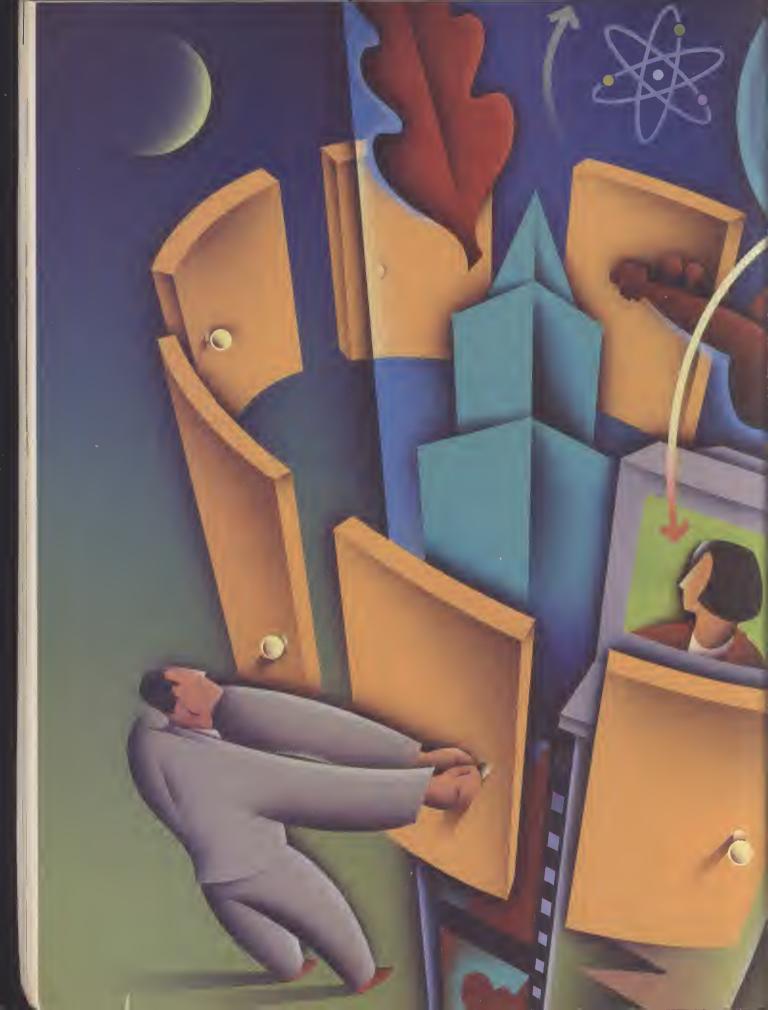






Dark Forces geme ©1994 Lucesfilm Ltd. end LucasArts Entertainment Company. All Rights Reserved. Used Under Authorization. Star Wars is e registered trademark of Lucesfilm Ltd. Dark Forces is a tredemerk of LucasAint Entertainment Company.

CHECK OUT THE DARK FORCES DEMO ON THE LUCASARTS BBS AT (415) 257-3070





can't unlock
the door to
the internet's
treasures?
here's software
that says

sesame!

OK, I admit it. The Internet has always scared the heck out of me. After logging thousands of hours on America Online. CompuServe, Prodigy and other commercial on-line services and writing a dozen books about the joys of life on-line, my deep, dark secret has been a severe and seemingly incurable case of Internet phobia.

Big, cranky and confusing—that's how the Internet appeared to me, and I suspect it looks that way to many of you. too. The idea of exploring that global computer network reminded me of a nightmare common in America's interior—finding myself on 42nd Street in New York City, surrounded by strangers who speak a language I think I understand, but I'm too cowed by the enormity of the surroundings to find out.

Well, I've got good news, my fellow Internet-

open sesame!

phobes: The idea of exploring the computing equivalent of the Big Apple need not shake us to the core. Thanks to a new breed of software called "Web browsers," getting around on one of the most tantalizing parts of the Internet, the World Wide Web, is far easier than hailing a

cab in midtown Manhattan.

The browsers build upon a free. no-frills communications program called Mosaic, developed in 1993 at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois to make it easy to access the World Wide Web. And just what's on the

cussion areas where folks post notes about everything from astrology to zoology—as well as for sending private electronic mail.

Through the filter of the Web browsers, the Internet's chaotic jumble of information takes shape as a civilized collection of neatly formatted "pages," or screenfuls of text and photos. Some even include video and sound. Attractive opening displays, called "home pages," introduce most information sites. Home pages contain headlines and subheads and can be navigated by scroll bars just like any other Windows or Macintosh screen.

Each site connects to scores of related subjects throughout cyberspace by "hypertext" links. If hypertext sounds like a sci-fi term, don't panic. Hypertext links are simply cross-

Filtered through a Web browser, the Internet goes from a chaotic jumble to neatly formatted 'pages' of text and video.

Web? It's home to most of the fun stuff you read about these days as being "on the Internet." You'll find everything from up-to-theminute news and financial data to information about health and medicine, music and litera-

references, like the "see also" sections in encyclopedia articles. Instead of flipping pages in a book, you simply use your mouse to click on the links—displayed in a different color or typeface from the rest of the text on your

screen for easy identification—and you are transported automatically to the related material. Best of all, the software lets you backtrack to previously viewed features or move ahead with just another click of the mouse.

And given the Internet's estimated 30 million users worldwide, these links can make for some pretty mindstretching, globe-striding leaps. Each click can take you to a Web site anywhere in the world. Let's say, for example, that you're browsing an article about pets when you notice that the world.

"cat" appears in blue. You click on the word, and an article specifically about cats appears on screen. There you find a link to a photo essay about, say, the big cats of Africa. From there you're guided to a travel database of information about nature tours of Kenya.

Or, one moment you're reading an electronic newspaper that was produced in Raleigh. N.C.; two mouse clicks later, you're reading a page assembled in Oslo, Norway. (Most non-



You'll find a World Wide Web address at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

ture. pets and plants, cooking and cars. You can order airline tickets and travel guides to exotic places (real ones, not virtual), find free software and get technical support for your PC. You can play games with distant (and unknown) opponents and catch a play-by-play of the latest pro sports events, even check out the political scene. Most of these software packages also include options for accessing the Internet newsgroups—some 10,000 dis-

OOBE (ōō'bē)

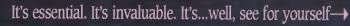
What is it?



It's going to change how people use computers.



I can't believe no one thought of it sooner.





OOBE can be found only in Acer computers, including our full line of multimedia PCs, available at selected retailers across the United States. So even first-time PC users can get a fast and easy introduction to this exciting new world of computer sights and sounds. Each Acer multimedia system combines a powerful computer (from desktop systems to Pentium[™]-processor minitowers) with these valuable audio, visual and communications features:



- Double-speed CD-ROM drive
- 16-bit Sound Blaster[™]-compatible stereo sound card
- Magnetically shielded external speakers
- Modem for communications and Internet access
- Best-of-category software bundle (valued at over \$1,000)





call 1-800-371-ACER for the Acer retailer nearest you.

The Industry Source Means Value.

English In a pendin an electime—y

open sesame!

English materials are labeled as such.)

In minutes—sometimes faster, depending on how many folks are visiting an electronic neighborhood at one time—you can follow a hypertext highway to dozens of topics on dozens of computers, a path you create by playing this digital game of free association. And if you don't like where you've landed, just click on the Back button and retrace your steps.

How the Web was spun

The World Wide Web was developed in the early 1990s in Bern, Switzerland, by a group of programmers at the European Particle

gopher av.eecs.nwu.edu and ftp nic.funet.fis.

In contrast, those who want to share information on the Web these days can do so using a relatively simple set of commands that turn any document into hypertext. One code turns a word or phrase into a hypertext link, another turns a sentence into a headline or the beginning of a new paragraph. A document so encoded—whether it contains text, graphics, video and/or sound-can be retrieved and viewed using any Web browser software programmed to recognize a new universal addressing system. This means the on-screen pages look basically the same regardless of which browser you use, though each browser has different options for setting your personal preferences of type fonts, colors and highlighting. Some programs

In minutes, you can build a *chain of linked topics* connecting dozens of *information sites* in a game of digital free association.

Physics Lab (better known as CERN, the acronym for its French name) and has taken the Internet by storm. You'll find an estimated 9,000 sites on the Web from locations all around the globe today, up from a mere 50 in 1993. It's no surprise; before the Web's arrival, there was good reason to be scared of Internet navigation. To get around, you had to know the Internet's native tongue, based on the obscure commands of the Unix operating system. Internet veterans used text-based tools called Gopher, Telnet and FTP, which required commands composed of frightening character strings such as

even let you build "hot lists" for quick access to sites you visit frequently.

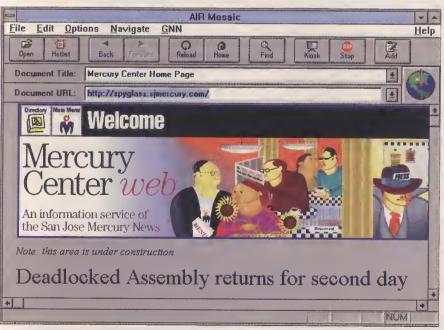
Typically, corporate programmers and technology-minded students at universities encode data and put it up on the Web. But there's no governing body on the Internet—it may be the closest thing we've got to a true democracy—so anyone who wishes to create a Web site of his or her own can do so. (We'll tell you how in a future issue.)

'Net' surfin' safari

You've heard of "Net surfing"? "Net" is the widely accepted slang term for the Internet.

And the Web-enticing you to click on its hypertext links and glide the globe on the wave of your curiosity—gave birth to the concept. Exploring the Web is nnlike anything you've ever done. Until the new Web browsers hit, it wasn't likely the average home computer owner could try to catch an information wave, even with the original public-domain version of Mosaic. While the software was free, it wasn't easy to get your hands on it—you had to be on the Internet, know where to find the program and how to copy it—and it was no picnic to install.

Fortunately for newcomers, nothing stays the same for long on the Internet. The biggest change to hit lately involves the moves by three major commercial on-line information services—America Online, CompuServe and Prodigy—to



After you've seen the local papers, check the Web for out-of-town editions.

open sesame!

deliver Web browsers to their subscribers.

Prodigy introduced a Web browser in January for PCs running Windows (a Macintosh version is due later this year), enabling its members to tool around the Web at no extra eost (the five hours Prodigy members receive with their monthly \$9.95 membership includes use of the

browser, with additional hours billed at

\$2.95 each). America Online is hot on Prodi-

gy's heels with plans to launch its Web

Close State Back Fasserd Home Search Save Reload

Document Title: Silicon Graphics' SILICON SURF Home Page

Document URL: http://www.sgi.com/

PRODUCTE O SERVICES

THE CLASSROOM

TECHNO CORNER

Catch a wave and you'll be riding on top of the World Wide Web.

browser for Windows by spring, followed by a Macintosh version sometime thereafter. And CompuServe appears to be right behind AOL with a browser of its own.

To use these services, you need a modem that transmits information at 9,600 bps (bits per second) or faster. The good news is that prices of 14,400-bps modems have dipped below \$100, and even 28,800-bps modem prices are falling. The not-so-good news is that, for now, even if you have a faster modem, it can only access America Online and Prodigy at 9,600 bps in many parts of the country; Web wizards will tell you that 9,600 bps is just barely fast enough for browser software to do its stuff. Both AOL and Prodigy are racing to expand their 14,400-bps access. CompuServe has several dozen 14,400-bps access lines; as we went to press, Spry, the company that makes Internet in a Box (see page 126), introduced a browser-only version of its program, ealled Mosaic in a Box. The \$49.95 package includes a disk that lets you open a CompuServe account and use Air Mosaic to get on the Web.

Meanwhile, Apple plans to add a Web browser to its currently Macintosh-only eWorld on-line information service this summer, and promises a Windows version of the service, complete with Web browser, in late summer or early fall. Delphi Internet Services, which has long offered the most extensive Internet access of the commercial on-line services, aims to introduce Web software in '95.

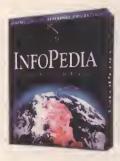
So, what's your best bet? If you haven't seen the Web yet, let Prodigy or another online service escort you on your first trip as they introduce their browsers. If you like what you see and think the Web merits a bigger investment, check with a local computer users group or bulletin board service to find a company that provides PPP (Point-to-Point Protocol) or SLIP (Serial Link Internet Protocol) accounts. These are phone services that let you dial into the Internet, typically at 14,400 bps or faster. Most local companies offer better rates (\$1 to \$10 an hour on average) than their national competitors. And don't think you have to live in a large city to find such a service. Ramnet, a telecommunications company in my hometown of Huntington, W.Va. (pop. 60,000), recently began providing Internet hookups in West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio.

But, just as you usually don't get a free telephone when you sign up for regular phone service, most Internet service providers don't sup-

THE WEB, VIA WINDOWS & WARP

The World Wide Web soon may be as close as your PC operating system. IBM's OS/2 Warp includes an Internet CD-ROM in its "bonus package," which began shipping with the software late last year. The current version of the software, called the Internet Connection, gives you access to internet electronic mail and newsgroups, a test version of a Web browser called WebExplorer and a SLIP connection. At press time, IBM was planning to release the final version of its Web browser, which will contain a "hot list" feature that takes you to your favorite Web sites fast, and other custom features to make Web wandering more fun.

Not to be outdone, Microsoft has promised that Windows95, the update of the Windows operating environment due later this year, will offer easy access to the Web as well as other internet services. —C.B.



f anything merits a word home to the folks, it's that at long last, there's an offer simply too good to be true—and it is true. Presenting INFOPEDIA, the most comprehensive multimedia reference program around.

t combines the entire 29-volume Funk and Wagnalls New Encyclopedia with Merriam-Webster's

Dictionary, Webster's New Biographical Dictionary, The World Almanac & Book of Facts,

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Quotations, Roget's

21st Century Thesaurus, Merriam-Webster's Dictionary



Try fitting all of these into a space less than a millimeter thick. We did.

INFOPEDIA may be the most complete CD-ROM reference tool in existence, but you wouldn't want to write home about it. At this price, you can afford to call.

of English Usage and The Hammond World Atlas. In all, more than 200,000 entries. Plus countless

animated sequences, video clips, audio files, maps and color photographs.



INFOPEDIA also has an exclusive single-screen interface, making it easy to jump from one reference work to

another. All this, and still INFOPEDIA is priced below



Watch historical events as if you were there but without all those cameras in your way.

What would Edison say about our sound recordings and narrations? Perhaps he'd be speechless.

the other leading reference programs. So visit your local retailer. Or for

just \$4.95 shipping and handling, we'll send you a free demo disk. Simply call us at (800) 472-8777

ext. 110. That call is free. Any others you'll want to make are beyond our control.











©1995 Future Vision Multimedia Inc., a subsidiary of Future Vision Holding, Inc.



ply the communications software you need to navigate the Net. The Netcom network, a national service, offers an attractive deal for Web browsing, supplying its NetCruiser software for Windows at no charge when you sign up. Netcom operates

solely as a gateway to the Internet—unlike AOL, for example, it offers no forums of its own. Installation is relatively painless, and rates are \$19.95 for 40 hours a month of prime-time access (weekdays from 9 a.m. to midnight), with unlimited access during the wee hours—that's more expensive than AOL or Prodigy, but a bargain compared with the

eial edition of Ed Krol's popular *The Whole Internet User's Guide* (O'Reilly & Associates)—is especially appealing to us Netphobes because it's full of clear explanations and illustrations, interesting background about the Internet and, last but not least, good humor.

What's more, the software is relatively easy to install, and the Air Mosaic browser looks good. Once you've reached the Web, you can set the program to take you directly back to your favorite home page the next

time you log in.

• Hitchhiking on the Information Highway, a \$99.99 CD-ROM, incorporates Net-

way, a \$99.99 CD-ROM, incorporates Netcom's NetCruiser browser as well as film-clip demos of Netcom and several other on-line services—you have to sign on with Netcom

Internet in a Box doesn't come cheap, but it's savvy enough to let beginners dodge the technical questions some packages present.

fees some Internet service providers charge.

If your service provider doesn't supply its own software, you'll have to buy an Internet software package that includes a Web browser.

The software that's right for you depends on your level of computer expertise and, of course, your budget. The first commercial packages, which aim to improve on the original Mosaic software by adding enhanced graphics, sound and video capabilities, range in price from about \$40 to \$200. Here's a quick look at the current crop of Internet packages with Web browsers, all on floppy disk unless otherwise noted:

• The authors of the original Mosaic recently formed a company called Netscape Communications and announced a \$39 commercial version of Mosaic called Netscape Navigator that figures to make a good thing better. (A free evaluation version is available on-line, but downloading it from the Mosaic Internet site proved to be a chore—after numerous frustrating attempts, I gave up.)

• Internet in a Box has the most promise for beginners right now. At \$149 the pro-

gram doesn't come cheap, but it's a good investment: It helped me dodge many of the technical questions that cropped up when I tried to install some other Internet packages. The program's user manual—actually a spe-

to use NetCrniser, but the program includes free time on that service as well as on AOL, CompuServe and Prodigy.

• InternetWorks (\$99) was bought by





No matter what kind of music you prefer, you'll find a site on the Web where you can play 24 hours a day.

AOL late last year and can be expected to play a prominent role in that service's Web browser developments.

• Internet Connections, a \$49.95 Windows version of a program originally available only

SEE YOUR PHOTOS ON YOUR PC!

Digitized Photos From Any 35mm Film! Use Them In Any Document!

Now you can keep all your 35mm photographs on floppy disks *and* display them with PhotoWorks™

Plus, the simple PC utility from Seattle FilmWorks, North America's most famous name in premium photofinishing.
PhotoWorks Plus works with any brand 35mm film. It's completely Windows compatible and



Store Your Snapshots On Diskette!

works with all your existing snapshots and negs.

Make a slide show of your summer vacation for friends and family. Personalize a screen saver with shots of your family. Export photos to word processing documents and other print-capable programs. Use your communications software to send your pictures to a friend's computer via modem. Make copies of your photos on blank disks. Spice up business presentations. Archive images for the future. PhotoWorks Plus comes with an easy-to-understand User's Guide that will get you up and running in no time flat. And the best part is **You Don't Need A CD-ROM Reader!**



See All Your Photos In 24-Bit Color!

FOR WINDOWSIN

Loaded With Features!

- Exports photos to word processors and publishing programs
- Uses any 35mm film
- Screen saver
- Slide show
- Photo enhancer
- Cataloging capability
- Over 50 file formats

Plus Stunning 640 x 480 24-Bit Color!



The package even includes a single-use camera and pre-paid processing, so you can get your photos on a floppy disk!

Look At All You Get!

- PhotoWorks Plus Software
- Two Rolls of Color 35mm Film
- Prepaid Processing for Pictures On Disk, Prints, Negatives and a New Roll of Film
- Single-Use Flash Camera!

For Dealers or to Order: Call 1-800-445-3348

NAME		
ADDRESS		
CITY	_ STATE	_ ZIP

Seattle FilmWorks PhotoWorks Plus Offer 1260 16th Ave. West Seattle, WA 98119

		Wuantity	Price Each	AMOUNT
	#M579 PhotoWorks Plus for Windows		\$34.95	
		ping: FedEx	2-day add \$3.95	
☐ Check or Money Order (payable to Seattle FilmWorks) ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard		Subtotal		
	Credit Card Number (All 14 or 16 digits)	V	VA residents add 8.2% sales tax.	
			TOTAL PAYMENT	
	Cardholder's Signature Expiration	Date		00101
				90101

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: PhotoWorks Plus for Windows requires an 1BM-PC or 100% compatible, running Windows 3.1 or newer in 386-enhanced mode. Minimum 4 Mb RAM recommended. 10 Mb physical and/or virtual memory required. Requires 4 Mb hard-disk space.

©1994 Seattle FilmWorks. Pictures On Disk and PhotoWorks are trademarks of Seattle FilmWorks, Inc. Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

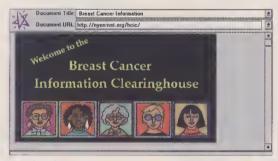
open sesame!

for DOS, comes with the original Mosaic as well as another early Wcb browser called Cello, plus other Internet tools and on-line service discounts.

• Explore OnNet, a \$1±9 package similar to Internet in a Box, touts its ability to link Internet electronic-mail services with popular Windows programs such as Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint.

• Internet Chameleon, \$199, is an early Web browser that the uninitiated may find difficult to install. (A stripped-down version called Chameleon Sampler is bundled with several Internet books and software packages, including the heavily promoted Internet Membership Kit. It gets you onto the Internet, but it won't take you directly to the Web. It does include directions for finding and copying the original Mosaic software.)

Don't be fooled into thinking that all the software or book/disk combinations now lining store shelves and touting Internet access include a Web browser—for example, the Internet Membership Kit, which sells for \$69.95, provides access only to Internet electronic-mail services and the newsgroup discussion areas, as well as the ability to copy Mosaic. Likewise, the software included with the book *Internet Anywhere* (\$29.95) does not include a Web browser.



Medical screening reaches a global audience.

Also note that, with the exception of Netscape Navigator, the vast majority of Internet access programs now available are designed to run on PCs that use Windows, though many of the companies promise Macintosh versions in the future. MicroPhone Pro (\$129), one of the few communications packages with Internet access for the Mac as well as Windows PCs, doesn't include a Web browser, although its developer, Software Ventures, plans to add one in future versions.

It appears that Internet in a Box may be the early leader of the pack among Web browsers for beginners, but it's going to have plenty of company very quickly, and with competition comes falling prices. The very best Web browsers may well still be in development. At least a dozen companies have licensed the original Mosaic technology and are planning commercial versions of the program, many of which will be rolling out later this year. It's way too early to crown any winners in this race.

Telephone and eable companies also are trying to get into the Internet act, experimenting with digital phone lines and fiber optics that promise to hook you into the Web at speeds approaching a blazing 500,000 bps.

In the meantime, at least we former Netphobes know that the Web will welcome us with open arms once we step across the threshold. So step in—once you find this Web. odds are you'll be happy to stick around for a while.

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the Web browser software mentioned in this article.

Explore OnNet

FTP Software, (500) 252-4357, (505) 655-4000 \$149 (Windows)

Hitchhiking on the Information Highway

Moon Falley Software, (\$00) 473-5509, (\$05) 751-3590 \$99.99 (Windows CD-ROM)

Internet Chameleon

NetManage, (405) 973-7171 \$199 (Windows)

Internet Connections

Morris Media, (\$00) \$43-3606, (310) 533-4\$00 \$49.95 (Windows)

Internet in a Box

Spry; (800) 777-9638, (206) ++7-0300 \$149 (Windows)

InternetWorks

BookLink, (\$00) +53-7573, (617) +33-0+6+ \$99 (Windows)

NetCruiser

Netcom, (800) 353-6600, (408) 345-2600 Free with sign-up (Windows)

Netscape Navigator

Netscape Communications, (800) 635-7453, (415) 254-2619 \$39 (Windows, Macintosh)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.

In the next issue you'll find ...



Features:

➤ Home of the Future: A look at life in the year 2005 and the changes we foresee in home PC technology. ➤ SimCity 2000 Strategies: Tips for beginners, intermediate and advanced players of the popular game. ➤ Databases: How to use these powerful software programs and what to use them for. ➤ How Kids use Software: A look at the four stages kids go through with new software packages.

Buyer's Guide:

➤ Consumer Lab: Real users test their design skills with the latest drawing programs.

Education:

➤ Preschool - Grade 3: Keyboards for kids.
 ➤ Grade 4 - 8: New math. ➤ Grade 9 - 12: College counselor.

Do-It-Yourself:

➤ Nuts + Bolts: How to download compressed files. ➤ Hobbies + Lifestyles: Flying programs.

Personal Productivity:

- Financial Adviser: Retirement planning.
- ➤ Working at Home: Business card design.

Resources:

➤ On-line Connections: Medical information.



To subscribe call 1-800-829-0119 or 904-445-4662 ext.420

Waiting for the green light on

U.S. Robotics, the USRobotics logo and Sportster are registered trademarks and *True* V.34 is a trademark of U.S. Robotics, Inc. V.FC is a trademark of Rockwell International Corporation. Other product names are used for identification purposes only, and may be trademarks and/or registered trademarks of their respective companies. See your U.S. Robotics representative for availability of specific products and features.

Five reasons to buy Sportster V.34 now:

Twice as fast means twice the savings.

Take your foot off the brake! That 1meg file that takes 10 minutes to download at 14.4 takes only five minutes at 28.8.

Which leaves more time to check your stock portfolio, chat with your fly-fishing buddy in Wyoming, or play a little Doom.

And imagine pulling those 27 E-mail messages offline in less than half the time it takes now!

Thousands of sites are running at 28,800 bps right now.

V.34?

You can cruise into B8Ss all over the country at 28.8. Grab information from thousands of World Wide Web sites at 28.8. More businesses and schools are putting 28,800 bps modems at their end of the phone line every day. Even major online services are getting into the fast lane at 28.8!

Sportster is number one at V.34.

More 28.8 users are choosing Sportster than any other V.34 modem. Why? Because U.S. Robotics helped set the international V.34 standard. And we've been leaders in compatibility and performance since 1976. That's why Sportster is the number one selling V.34 modem in the world.

Compatible from the word go.

Sportster accelerates to a screamin' 28,800 bps with both V.34 and V.FC modems -- and it's compatible with other modems from 14,400 all the way down to 300 bps. You can count on superior E-mail and file transfer performance.

Easy-to-use fax and communication software is included. And you get hours of free time on the major online services!

The True V.34™ Green Light Kit!

We've created this kit to help make your new Sportster V.34 even more fun, more productive and more economical to use. Just buy Sportster V.34 by June 30, 1995, and U.S. Robotics will send you:

- A certificate for extended FREE online time
- Easy-to-use Internet access software
- An Internet Guide book, including thousands of Internet and World Wide Web addresses
- A one-year subscription to an Internet or online magazine
- An exciting interactive game

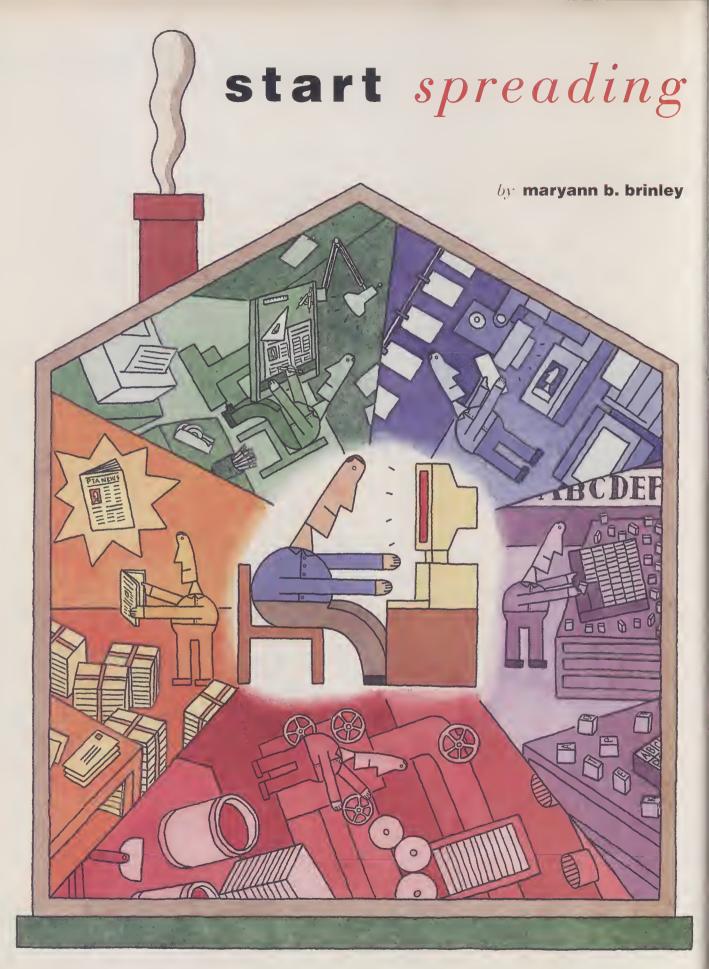
PLUS: FREE membership in USR's new Club V.34 -- with even more special offers and services!



See your nearby U.S. Robotics Authorized Reseller today, or call 1-800-845-0908 for more information.

This is a limited time offer, so you'd better move fast -- but do obey the traffic signals!

KRobotics



the news...

Desktop publishing lets

you keep friends and family up to date

with fun newsletters. Take it

from a once-reluctant publisher: Today's

software makes it easier than ever.

Once upon a time—about five years ago, in fact—the president of the PTA at my son's junior high school cornered me after a meeting. "You're a writer. Will you please put together our newsletter next year?" she pleaded. "I know you can do it."

I wasn't so sure. "I write, but I'm not a designer," I pointed out. "I've never produced a publication from start to finish." But no one else had, either. The job was mine.

Of course, I had no idea what I was getting into when I agreed to produce *The Glenfield Newsletter*, which comes out five times a year with all the news that's fit to print about the Glenfield Middle School in Montclair, N.J. So I just dove in—gathering news, interviewing

teachers, writing stories, asking parents to contribute items, pestering our busy school principal for announcements and words of wisdom. Then, with all my material in hand—some on paper, some on floppy disk—I sat down at my PC to assemble the 14-page publication.

Almost immediately, my production schedule unraveled. Even when contributors were kind enough to send in articles on floppy disk, I wound up retyping everything because I couldn't incorporate text from other writers'

word processing programs into my Word-Star 5.0 for DOS files. (I've since learned that I could have worked with files saved in ASCII, a universal text format—if I'd had any idea what ASCII was back then. Even so, I still would have had to insert all the formatting codes, such as paragraph indents.)

As frustrating as that was, writing and editing were a snap compared with turning my news into a newsletter, complete with columns, headlines and graphics. My word processor didn't help much. For instance, to make the headlines prominent, I had to print them out,

spreading

trudge down to a local shop and enlarge them on a photocopicr. As for the text, WordStar only let mc format my storics in one column. To solve the problem, I had to set narrow margins, print the text in one long strip and cut it apart. Then I spread out the pieces on the floor and glued it all down—in order, I hoped—into two columns on 8½-by-11-inch paper.

To illustrate the stories, I left space within each column and glued in snapshots of teachers and students, as well as pictures taken from a book of clip art. In fact, one piece of clip art—a boy proffering a newspaper—became the newsletter's logo. I relied on a black Magic Marker for the lines around pictures or boxes.

Assembling the newsletter wasn't just low-tech, it was like a scene from a Jerry Lewis movie. As I crawled around on the floor, rubber-cementing text and graphical elements into place, pieces of stories, a headline or maybe a photo would disappear, until I'd find them stuck to my knees.

And my troubles didn't end when I put the cap back on the glue. Each time I took my original newsletter to the print shop to run off 675 copies, I'd pray that all the pieces stayed in place. Inevitably, a page number would fall off or a photo would be crooked. I liked to think it gave the newsletter's look a certain "homey" charm.

Volume Two: The WordPerfect years

My son, Zach, graduated and moved on to high school, but my daughter, Maggie, started the sixth grade in the fall of 1993. The PTA needed a volunteer newsletter editor again. Guess who?

This time, I was ready. My new word processing software, WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows, had features designed to make newsletter

Page Magic example dtp 4:25:36 PM File Edit Page Frame Text Draw Options Help THEATING STATES ± 26 ± 靈夢雲腦¶ Text style MENT Enjoy an active life with Box Rounded box Atlas Sport! adipiscing elit, sed dlam nonummy nibh euismod incidunt ut laoreet dolore amet, consecteture adipiscing alit, night euismod tincidunt ut magna aliquam erat volutpat Ut wisi anim ad 꾇 aoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat minim vantam, quis nostrud exerci tation Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exarci tation ullamooper suscipit tobortis nisi ut alliquip ax ea commodo porsequat. Duis te leugifacilial. ullamcorper syscip it loborils rist ut aliquip ex sa commodo consequal Duis te feugifacilisi. LEISU Duis autem dolor in hendrerit in volputate velit esse molestie consequat, vel illum dolore eu teudat null Ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nist ut allquip ex Duis autem dolor in

PageMagic lets you get fancy with fonts and headlines.

the news

production easier. I could format my words in columns, and what I saw on screen was more or less what I would see on the page. Also, instead of marching to the print shop to enlarge text for headlines.

I could size them right on my computer. I just called up a menu of typeface sizes, clicked

my mouse and it was done.

Assembling

my first

newsletter

wasn't just

low-tech, it

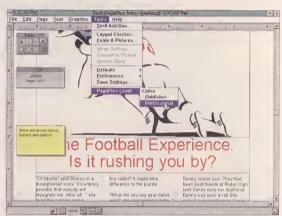
was like a

scene from a

Jerry Lewis

movie.

I had other new type options, too. WordPerfect included lots of fonts, and the on-screen preview box showed me just what each one looked like. I set captions in fancy italic type and drew attention to announcements by putting them in boldface.



PagePlus can be set for three levels of expertise: Intro, Publisher or Professional.

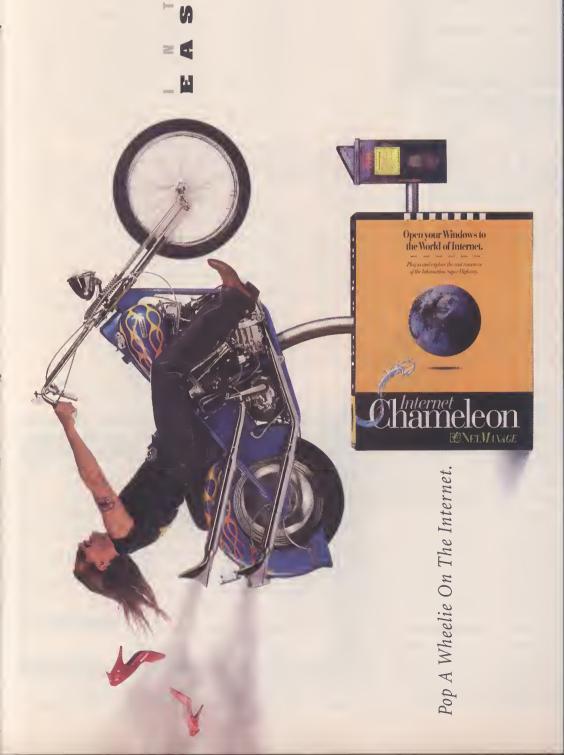
I retired the clip-art paperboy who'd graced the newsletter and adopted a more streamlined look for the logo, setting the title in a bold typeface and underlining it with a thick rule. The new logo popped out at the reader, and there wasn't any danger it would pop off the page when I took it to the print shop.

This time around, I had new opportunities to get artsy. WordPerfect included a slew of picture files that I could easily incorporate into my text. For instance, when I had a story on the school lunch program, I scanned the graphics menu and popped in a nice drawing of an apple

to illustrate it.

I also bid farewell to my Magic Marker and those unruly hand-drawn lines. WordPerfect let me add lines of varying thickness—and they were always straight. The only time I broke out the rubber cement was to put the photos in place. Best of all, those little bits of paper no longer stuck to my knees.

But not all of my production wees were over. I still had trouble incorporating material created in other word processing programs. Sometimes I'd encounter formatting commands that had to be deleted manually. And even when I learned about the miracle of ASCII and asked contributors to save their text in that format, I



Heaven. Well equipped to explore the road and hit all the hot spots. Hey, who says you were born to be mild? Rule The Road. Throttle up and tool down the Internet. Ride Internet Chameleon straight into Hog

All The Tools To Rule The Road: WebSurfer, Email, NEWTNews, File Transfer, Gopher, and more!

Book the \$9 Internet Cruise: Test drive the smoothest Internet front-end around. Take the \$9 Cruise and pick-up free highway fare. Call us: 1-800-558-7656 Ask for Department El







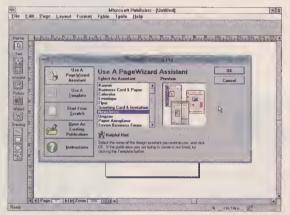




spreading

still had to insert all the formatting codes myself. Although I was no longer retyping every story, these fixes are up a fair amount of my time.

And while I was thrilled with the new design capabilities of WordPerfect, problems arose there, too. Sure, I was now creating and experimenting with columns, graphics and other visual elements on screen. But because the program linked the pages of the newsletter so that text would flow from one to the next, making an addition to. say, page one, sometimes pushed copy or a picture over to page two, and everything from that point on would have to be refit.



Say the magic words and Microsoft Publisher's PageWizard designs your entire newsletter.

There was no way, though, that I'd ever go back to cut-and-paste production. I loved the way WordPerfect let me straighten up *The Glenfield Newsletter*, giving its appearance a new charm. I liked to eall it "clean and simple."

Volume Three: Publisher takes over

Last September, Maggie entered the seventh grade, and still there were no volunteers clamoring to take over the newsletter. Would I do it, just one last time? Sure, I'd had some success using WordPerfect. But the chance to produce the newsletter with one of the specialized desktop publishing programs I'd recently heard about was what clinched the deal.

As I skimmed the selection of desktop publishing software in my local computer store, I was delighted to see that most of the programs promised to be kind to beginners. I also liked that they included features that would help with lots of other home projects (see "If a newsletter isn't for you..." on the facing page).

PagePlus's box told me that I could use its Intro, Publisher or Professional level, depending on my expertise. CompuWorks Publisher offered me a guided tour that would simulate the creation of the first page of a newsletter. I was intrigued by PageMagie's PowerText, a

the news

tool that would let me easily rotate, curve, slant and adjust text just about any way I wished. Then again, I wondered if The Student Writing Center, a program that helps young people create

'Sit back
and watch
as your
newsletter is
laid out,' the
software
commanded.
I was really

beginning to

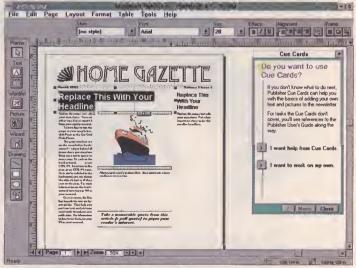
like this.

newsletters, wasn't more my speed. I had trouble deciding, but I found mysclf drawn to the packages that emphasized page design. Aldus HomePublisher has an Auto-Create template: Just answer a few questions, and it will assemble a sample layout for you. But that software is designed for a Macintosh, and I use a PC. Microsoft's Publisher has a similar feature, a "design assistant" tantalizingly called PageWizard. I decided to go with the CD-ROM version of the Microsoft program, even though it was the most expensive, because it seemed the easiest to install. Truth is, all of the programs had features to make it easier to produce the newsletter. But the PageWizard had mc under its spell—I was ready for some desktop publishing magic.

PageWizard was one of the five options that popped np when I launched the program (along with Use a Template, Start From Scratch, Open an Existing Publication, and Instructions). Eager for help, I clicked on PageWizard and clicked again to select a newsletter "specialist." On the right side of the screen, a message flashed: "This design assistant will create the basic layout for a newsletter, tailored to your preferences." That sounded good to me. All I needed to do was answer a series of questions:

• "What style: Classic, Modern, Jazzy, Scasonal or Art Dcco?" I peeked at each style using the preview option, then decided on Classic.

• "How many columns: 1, 2, 3 or 4?" I chose 2 and PageWizard told mc that this is a quick and easy layout to use. Perfect.



Microsoft Publisher's design tips are a big help, but its ouscreen 'Cue Cards' don't reveal all that's in the \$20 manual,

• "Which 2-column layout would you like?" The Standard layout looked easiest, with top-to-bottom columns and not a lot of rules.

• The fourth request? I could handle this one: "Type the name of your newsletter."

• "Where do you want your title? Horizontal (across the top) or Vertical (down the left side)?" I clicked on the Vertical option.

Will you be printing or copying on both

sides?" Yes.

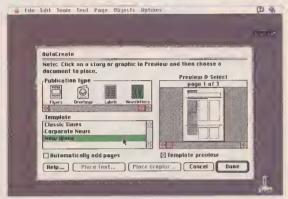
• "Do you want a back cover that has room

for a mailing label?" I do.

• "How many pages do you need?" Um, 10, I think. I made my entry and took comfort in a message from PageWizard informing me that I could add or remove pages later.

• "Choose the options you want: Table of Contents? Fancy First Letters? Date? Volume and Issue?" Yes, yes, yes and yes—as long as I wasn't doing the work.

"Now sit back and watch as your newsletter is laid out," PageWizard commanded. I was really beginning to like this. My PC began to hum and click. On screen, pieces slipped into



Aldus HomePublisher's AutoCreate gives Macusers design help similar to PageWizard's.

If a newsletter isn't for you, consider these publishing projects

When I brought Microsoft's Publisher home to produce The Glenfield Newsletter, I had no idea how many creative uses my family would find for it. My husband designed a birthday card for his twin brother, my son turned out a jazzy-looking book report for his English class and my daughter designed labels for Big Baldy, an imaginary shampoo she had dreamed up for a school project.

In fact, my family was having so much fun with Publisher that after I sent my pages to the printer, I went back to the program to create stationery for Montclair High School's ice-hockey booster club. The club's members were so impressed with the results that they asked me to design a flier promoting

their annual Face-Off Party.

Clearly, newsletters just scratch the surface of what desktop publishing programs can do. You can create scores of quick-and-



easy projects for friends, relatives, school groups or charitable organizations. The programs include a variety of preset layouts. Pick a suitable design, add text in any font that catches your eye, choose a nice border and some snazzy clip art, and click OK.

Here are some ideas that will help the whole family get in on the act:

- Your kids' creative juices will flow when they design professional-looking posters, calendars and school reports.
- For your next dinner party, create customized invitations, place cards, menus and place mats.
- Starting your own business? Create a logo, stationery, envelopes, business forms, memos, calling cards and brochures advertising your service.
- Sports fans in your family can root for the home teams by making one-of-a-kind banners to take to the arena. Or, surprise your bowling teammates with certificates celebrating your championship season. —M.B.

spreading

place while message bars indicated what was happening. The logo rotated to run vertically per my request. Sample art popped in from the program's selection of clip art. Dummy type full of helpful hints wrapped itself around a picture or appeared in a box. For instance, the type advised me to "take a memorable quote from this article (a pull quote) to pique your read-



The Glenfield Newsletter reflects five years of improvements in home publishing software.

er's interest." I sat with hands folded, intently watching the frenzied activity on screen. Minntes later, PageWizard proclaimed, "Your newsletter is ready for you to add your own

text and pictures.

I wish I could tell you that the next step—pouring my words into PageWizard's wonderful layout—took five minutes and I was done. But I'd be lying. I sorely needed an overview of what I could do and how I could do it. Unfortunately, the Publisher CD-ROM didn't include a printed manual, just on-screen Cue Cards, which were helpful, but didn't answer all of my questions. I wound up sending away for the documentation, which cost \$20 plus shipping and handling—but it was money well spent.

Once I got my bearings, thanks to the manual and lots of trial and error, I discovered several useful features. I was particularly delighted to learn that the program let me drop in text created in other word processing programs, and that I could type text right into the layout using

the software's word processor.

Publisher also tied up lots of loose ends. By specifying, for instance, how I wanted the articles to flow within the newsletter, the software linked a story from, say, page one to pages two and four, and it automatically added lines that say "continued on page __" when text jumped to other pages. Thin lines called rules, which separate page elements, were easy to insert, and headlines could be set in any number of fonts

the news

and sizes. I even used special effects, including shadows that gave the letters an illusion of depth. As a result, the newsletter got its most distinguished logo yet.

I found the program's clip art both sophisticated and varied, It was easy to add clip art from other programs, too (see "Instant Art" in the February issue of *HomePC* for a look at

10 useful clip art packages).

I still stumbled a bit when tinkering with the layout. As in the WordPerfect software, a change to one page of the newsletter may trigger unwanted changes elsewhere, as text and graphics shift to new—and sometimes quite

surprising—places.

Despite the occasional frustrations, I've become a true believer in desktop publishing. After all, it transformed *The Glenfield Newsletter* from an ugly duckling into a publication that's sleeker, if not yet a swan. The only thing I'm still doing the old way is gluing the photos in place—although I have my eye on a flatbed scanner, which will let me copy pictures right

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the desktop publishing software mentioned in this article.

Aldus HomePublisher

Adobe Systems, (800) 553-6657, (415) 961-4400 \$80 (Macintosh)

CompuWorks Publisher

CompuWorks, (612) 559-5140 \$49.99 (Windows)

Microsoft Publisher

Microsoft, (S00) 426-9400, (206) 852-8080 \$139 (Windows) \$199 (Windows CD-ROM)

PageMagic

NEBS, (800) \$52-5254, (508) 448-6118 \$69.95 (Windows)

PagePlus

Serif, (800) 697-3743, (603) 889-8650 \$59.95 (Windows)

The Student Writing Center

The Learning Company, (\$00) \$52-2255, (\$10) 792-2101 \$60 (Windows) \$70 (Windows CD-ROM)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.

Get 10 free hours of PRODIGY with easy Internet access!

Name	32655/7813
Address	
City	StateZip
Signature	Phone Number ()

Or Call I-800-PRODIGY ext. 330

Please send me	software in the	e following format: (p	lease check only one)
Dos 3.5	Dos 5.25	Windows™ 3.5	Macintosh® 3.5

This offer is subject to change and orders are subject to acceptance. Please allow approximately two weeks for shipmen of your PRDDICY® software. This offer is available to now mambers only and is limited to not per boushold.



COMMUNICATE SOLD SITUE WITH 10 free Hours Of PRODICY

Nobody makes the Internet easier than PRODIGY

Send an E-Mail to Boston or Brazil. Visit the White House and send a message to the President or download annual reports from the SEC. PRODIGY's Web Browser gives you full point and click access to the exploding world of the Internet— and there's no extra charges.

Between USENET Newsgroups and PRODIGY Bulletin Boards, you'll also have access to the largest number of Bulletin Boards in the World!

And with PRODIGY Chat you can talk live with over 2 million people on everything from politics and personalities to sports and singles.

No other online service gives you all this

- PRODIGY live Chat
- PRODIGY Bulletin Boards
- The latest stock quotes
- · A regularly updated encyclopedia
- Consumer Reports online
- Computer games
- Latest Sports scores
- Banking Online
- Sports Illustrated for Kids
- Strategic Investor
- Much, much more

Trial offer includes 1st month's membership fee and 10 hours of usage in the first month. Usage beyond the trial offer will result in extra fees. Some features charged for separately. Credit card required. Phone charges may apply. Limited time offer subject to change. PRODIGY is a registered mark of Prodigy Services Company. © 1995 Prodigy Services Company. All rights reserved.



UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL/PERMIT NO. 98/JOHNSON CITY. TN

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



PO BOX 8667 GRAY TN 37615-9967

Getting started is simple

PRODIGY may already be installed on your computer. Just look for the PRODIGY icon, point and click. Otherwise, call us at 1-800-PRODIGY or mail in the coupon and we'll send you the free software. You can also download the software directly from the Internet at WWW location: www.astranet.com

call 1-800-PRODIGY ext.330

PRODIGY

Service



spreading

into my newsletter file (for more information on what these devices do, see "Scanners" in the February issue of *HomePC*).

In my never-ending quest to make my newsletter more professional-looking, I consulted with graphic designer Arlene Hayden of Buckingham, Pa., who offered me these tips:

• Newsletters must be easy to read. When in doubt, keep it simple.

• Put personality into your title or logo by using clip art, an interesting font or shading.

• Experiment with type, but be consistent. Stick with one or two fonts per publication, but feel free to vary the type size and alter the style,



using italic, boldface and underlining to highlight the text elements.

• Break up long stories with boxes containing quotes, tips or checklists.

• Don't put less than ¼ inch (1½ picas) of white space between columns.

• Consider photos, diagrams and charts to accent your pages.

Then, if you'd like the chance to give your newsletter a real beauty treatment, see the box below. And please, throw away those gluc pots!

Maryann B. Brinley is a freelance writer in Upper Montclair, N.J.

SEND US YOUR NEWSLETTER!

and publish the results-along with tips on how

Would you like to have your newsletter spruced up by a professional designer? If you publish a newsletter using your home computer, mail us a copy. We'll choose several at random for a front-to-back graphic makeover,

you can re-create the designs at home—in an upcoming issue. Send your newsletter to HomePC, Newsletter Makeover, 600 Community Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030. Please include your name, address and phone number; information on your readers and/or organization; which software you use; and why you think your newsletter needs a facelift.

5,000 YELLOW PAGES 10 MILLION BUSINESSES COMPLETE INFORMATION — ON CD-ROM



IMAGINE SEARCHING BY:

Type of Business — Using Yellow Page Headings for any City, State, County or Zip Code **Company Name** — Across the entire U.S.

IMAGINE WHAT THE AMERICAN YELLOW PAGES CAN DO FOR YOU

- Find all the "Bed & Breakfasts" in Bennington, Vermont
- · Locate all the "Chevrolet" dealers in Minnesota
- Learn what type of business the "Amalfe Brothers" from New Jersey are in
- Discover how many "Child Care Centers" are in your work Zip Code area

American Business Information®

It's Accurate, Affordable & Available Today for \$119
To Order Call 1-800-555-5666 or visit your local retailer

5711 South 86th Circle • P.O. Box 27347 • Omaha, NE 68127-0347 Phone (402) 593-4595 • Fax (402) 331-6681

Beginners Guide to the Internet on CD-ROM

You don't read manuals!

You have a life!

You never owned a pocket protector!

The Information Superhighway explained in Plain English by your video guides.

Learn the new Graphical Tools that allow you to easily explore the Internet.

Let our Expert Net Surfers share their Hot Lists to the Goolest Spots on the Net for business, education, and just plain fun.

Includes EVERYTHING you need to get on the Net!





To order
Call 1.800-510-2121
or Send Check or Money Order
for \$49.95 to:
A.N.M.
P.O. Box 4070 Dept. G
Woodland Hills, CA 91365-4070



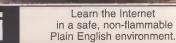
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR YOUR MONEY BACK

THE CHAY DISC THAT CAYES YOU!

CNE MONTH INTERNET ACCESS!

(15/19//E | (15/19/10 | (15/19/10 | (15/19//E

Requires 386SX or bette IBM compatible wif Windows 3.1™ or highe & 2X CD-ROM Driv



consumer lab

YOU RATE THE PRODUCTS

Ugh. Spreadsheets. For many people, the word conjures up images of 9-to-5 drudgery. But we've got news for you: Spreadsheets get a bum rap. Just because scientists, engineers

all the numbers entered in the cells for each expense. Every time you enter a new expense, your spreadsheet program would recalculate the total, giving you an up-to-date picture of how much you're spending—and what you're spending it on.

You can just as easily create subcategories.

track gas, tolls, repairs, loan payments and other outlays. By calculating subtotals, you'll

see just how much your car costs you each month and why. Then you can easily create a

chart to determine how much of your month-

Under expenses for your car, say, you can

Which spreadsheet is No. 1? Our testers do the math

and financial advisers rely on them to generate boring charts and graphs doesn't mean you can't find better uses for them. Believe

it or not, spreadsheets can work wonders in your home; you can trust them to track your household expenses, manage your work and family schedules and, yes, spice up your favorite pastimes.

Spreadsheet programs organize all sorts of information—not just the boring stuff. They usually divide the screen into rows and columns that cross to form a grid of boxes, or "cells." The spreadsheet lcts you set up "worksheets," or templates, that perform predetermined calculations automatically

calculations automatically when you fill in the cells with numbers.

Say you decide to set up a worksheet for monthly household expenses. First, you'd list each type of expense (food, clothing, entertainment and so forth) in a column on the left side of the sheet. Then you'd enter simple mathematical formulas for addition and subtraction; these let you keep a running total of

Managani Capa Statistics of the Control of the Capability of the C

ly income was used to pay tolls compared with how much you spent on gas, or which of your two cars costs you more each month.

With a few minutes of extra work, you can create a separate worksheet for each month and keep a running total of all your year-to-date spending. You'll find all your worksheets grouped together in "workbooks"; tabbing through a workbook is as easy as thumbing through the pages of a paper notebook.

Today's spreadsheet programs also go be-

yond the basics to provide features for users who deal with exacting calculations—making the programs more intuitive, for instance, or introducing software "wizards" or

all the options you can get aud how useful they all are. I had no idea what was available out there."

We tested all three of the Windows

'I'm just overwhelmed by all the options and how useful they are,' said one tester. 'I had no idea what was available.'

"assistants" for much of the setup work—that are a boon for home users as well.

To evaluate the wealth of new features, we invited five people with varying levels of experience using both spreadsheets and com-

puters into our Consumer Lab to put the most popular spreadsheet programs through their paees. (To learn a little about our testers' backgrounds, turn to page 146.) All five spent some quality time with Lotus 1-2-3 Release 5. Mierosoft Excel 5.0 and Quattro Pro 6.0, the three top-selling spreadsheet programs for Windows PCs, according to PC Data of Reston, Va., which tracks computer product sales.

"When you asked me what I was looking for in a spreadsheet prior to testing, I really didn't

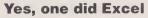
know," said James Sarrantonio, an actuary who uses Lotus 1-2-3 both at home and at the office. "Now I'm just overwhelmed by spreadsheets on a Micron Pentium 90 multimedia PC. All the programs ran smoothly on this system, which has much more power than our relatively straightforward numbercrunching projects required.

> Our tests included a series of tasks that simulate calculations an average user might tackle at home. We presented our testers with a set of data, then asked them to create five charts and two graphs. One chart and one graph showed a list of household expenses; the others focused on ereating a home inventory, which our testers organized both by object type and value.

After each tester completed a project with a program, we interviewed him or her for an assessment of the product's ability to perform rou-

tine calculations, format text, draw charts, and print, sort and eategorize information. We also asked the testers to scrutinize and evaluate each program's manuals, on-screen help systems and any special guided tours or introductory software.

The testers then assigned letter grades (A through F) reflecting how well they felt each program rated in eight eategories: automated help features; documentation manuals; ability to draw charts; case of use; setup and execution of calculations; sorting data; tutorials; and overall value. Finally, we ranked the programs based on an average of our testers' grades in each of these categories. (For a closer look at how the spreadsheets performed, see the chart at left.)



Our testers tapped Microsoft Excel as their pick of the three packages. The program earned a B+ overall and wou praise for its varied mix of features. Quattro Pro, deemed the easiest of the three to use, came in second with a B. Lotus 1-2-3 took third place (also



Marilyn, a police dispatcher, seeks clues.

HOW THE SPREADSHEETS RATED WITH OUR TESTERS

	1-2-3	Excel	Quattro Pro
Automated help	В	В	В
Calculations	B+	А	B+
Documentation	C+	В.	В
Drawing charts	C+	В	В
Ease of use	В	В	В
Sorting data	B+	А	B+
Tutorial	A-	В	В
Overall value	B+	B+	В
Overall grade	B (3.12)	B+ (3.37)	B (3.14)

with a B) and was widely praised by our testers for its introductory tutorial.

Our testers seemed not to be swayed by previous spreadsheet experience; two of the three testers who already own a spreadsheet

rated at least one of the other programs they used in the Lab higher than the one they use at home.

Keep in mind, too, that the spreadsheet market is like a small neighborhood where everybody strives to keep up with the Joneses. When one manufacturer debuts a feature or improvement that users like, you can count on everyone else to quickly incorporate it into their own products. As a result, the differences our testers cited among these three programs likely won't remain differences for very long.

All our testers paid close attention to the difficulty level of each program. They all wanted a spreadsheet they could learn and use with few hassles; no one wanted to pore over complicated manuals. And while our



Stephen explores which spreadsheet features add value.

Vital statistics: prices, requirements and features

	Lotus 1-2-3 Release 5 For Windows	Microsoft Excel 5.0 For Windows	Quattro Pro 6.0 For Windows
Manufacturer	Lotus Development	Microsoft	WordPerfect (Novell Applications Group)
Price	\$495	\$495	\$395
Upgrade price	\$119	\$129 ¹	\$49.95 ²
Min. requirements	386, Windows 3.1	386, Windows 3.1	386, Windows 3.1
Min. RAM	4 MB	4 MB	4 MB
Min. hard-disk space	11 MB	17 MB	10 MB
No. of graph styles	More than 200	102	50
Drag-and-drop copy and move	Yes	Yes	Yes
In-cell editing	Yes	Yes	Yes
Interactive tutors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Automated helpers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tech support hours	12 hrs./day	12 hrs./day	11 hrs./day
Toll-free tech support	Yes ³	No	Yes ⁴
Other formats available	DOS, Macintosh, OS/2, Unix	DOS, Macintosh, OS/2, Unix	DOS
Customer service	(800) 343-5414, (617) 577-8500	(800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080	(800) 321-4566, (801) 225-5000

^{1 \$30} rebate offer for competitive upgrade until April 30.

² Competitive upgrade for \$99.95 (competing package must be worth mare than \$250).

³ Toll-free live tech support for first three months. Thereafter, users can call a 24-hour automated toll-free service, 24-hour aperator service plan ranges in price up to \$200 per year

⁴ Toll-free tech support for first six months. Thereafter, users con coll o 900 number billed at \$2 per minute or an 800 number billed at \$25 per call.

less experienced testers took longer to complete the tests than those with more experience, when they were done, beginners reportinvited them to give these programs a whirl. You'll find their impressions of what they saw beginning on page 148.

After the tests, even the less experienced PC users felt that they had enough knowledge to use a spreadsheet at home.

ed that they had enough knowledge to feel comfortable using a spreadsheet at home.

Nevertheless, several testers said afterward that they wouldn't recommend buying any spreadsheet without trying it out first. It was for their benefit—and yours—that we

Research and test design by Sun Ying Tam. Research assistance for this month's Consumer Lab was provided by David Galletta, Patrick Gaynor, Melissa Gelb, Bill Manley and Jennifer Triverio. Additional reporting by Judy Hogan.

Meet March's Consumer Lab testers

(From left to right)

Rene Babich Dumas, 30, is a teacher and freelance writer who helps manage a newspaper written by and for teenagers. She uses Microsoft Excel on her Macintosh at home to keep track of budgets, payroll and schedules. If Rene were to buy a new spreadsheet, she says ease of use would be the most important factor in her decision about what to purchase.

Stephen Rogers, 43, is a telecommunications consultant who has been using a personal computer for seven years. He uses his PC mainly for word processing and pays less attention to the database, voice mail and PC utilities loaded on his system. Stephen says that his main problem with using spreadsheets is

that they strike him as being difficult to use.

John D. White, 58, is a college professor who uses Quattro Pro for DOS on his Pentium 90 computer at home to keep track of his students' grades. He says he has "mathphobia" and hates working with numbers, including setting up formulas on a spreadsheet. John spends about 15 hours a week using his PC, mostly for word processing.

James Sarrantonio, 37, is an actuary who uses Lotus 1-2-3 at home on a Gateway 2000 386SX-based computer to maintain his family's budget. At the office, he relies on Lotus 1-2-3 on a 386-based PC to analyze insurance rates and other financial information. James says he

had never worked with a spreadsheet program other than 1-2-3 before our tests. He's comfortable using 1-2-3, he says, and has no interest in shopping around for another program.

Marilyn Chalmers, 45, is a police-department dispatcher who uses a multimedia computer at home, primarily to run educational programs and games for her 5-year-old son. She doesn't own a spreadsheet program—or use one at work—and when asked what she would look for if she were buying one, she said ease of use would be her primary concern.

(From l. to r.) Dumas, Rogers, White, Sarrautonio, Chalmers.



IN SEARCH OF







Who Killed Taylor French?

INSPIRATION ADVENTURE









Mission accomplished. Just check out Creative Multimedia. From *Dr. Ruth's Encyclopedia of Sex* to *Sports Illustrated For Kids*, every Creative Multimedia title gives you the ultimate interactive experience on CD-ROM. No one else can offer you lifestyle and leisure CD-ROMs (starting at only \$29.95) like Creative Multimedia. Visit your local retailer or call 1-800-262-7668. (FA-1)



Lotus 1-2-3 Release 5



True, Lotus 1-2-3 finished third in our field of three spreadsheets, but don't read too much into that result: Its overall grade average was just a hair below that

of second-place Quattro Pro. In effect, the two products were nearly equal in our testers' eyes. But that doesn't mean they

found the two products to be identical. Our testers roundly praised Lotus 1-2-3's introductory tutorial, which took the top grade in its category (A-). Quattro Pro, meanwhile, fared worst in that category, rating a B from our testers.

"The tour is entertaining, although there's too much promotional stuff like, 'Lotus is better because...'," said Rene Babich Dumas. "Still, I think it's a good introduction."

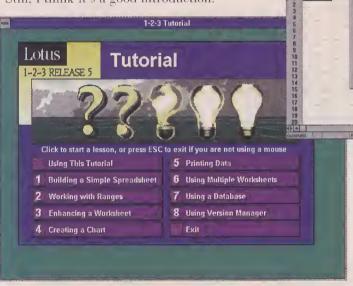
it. As a result, 1-2-3 feels very familiar to many users, even those who work with other programs. "I feel a lot more at home with 1-2-3," said a surprised John White, who uses Quattro Pro at home. "I came in expecting to like Quattro Pro. but I preferred Lotus

"The tour is entertaining. I think it's a good introduction."—Rene Babich Dumas

1-2-3. It was very easy to use."

Lotus 1-2-3 Release 5 - [Untitled]
Eile Edit View Style Joola Bange Window Help

But that was a more experienced computer user talking. Marilyn, who had no prior experience with spreadsheets, had a different opinion. She preferred the way the other pro-



You can count on Lotus 1-2-3's tutorial for help, testers say.

Several testers complained about the printed manual, which drew a C+ from the group. Some testers thought it provided too little step-by-step information, while others said it was written over their heads. "This documentation is more for a real computer expert, not me," said Marilyn Chalmers.

While 1-2-3 finished behind the other two programs our testers examined in almost every category, it was typically very close to the number-two program. Testers rated it about even with Quattro Pro in, for example, its ability to sort information (B+) and in program calculations (B+).

Lotus 1-2-3 for DOS became the popular standard for spreadsheet programs shortly after it was introduced in 1982, and many of the features people now take for granted in spreadsheet programs were either first introduced in 1-2-3 or developed to compete with

grams handled most of the features she considered; it made absolutely no difference to her that many of those features were introduced by Lotus 1-2-3.

Other testers were simply confused by Lotus 1-2-3's appearance and its on-screen navigational controls. "It's geared toward the more experienced user, not the beginner like me,"

said Marilyn. "The simple stuff was OK, but once you get into the [formulas] and stuff like that, it gets confusing.

32 12/14/94 241 PM

"I wouldn't buy 1-2-3, but I would be willing to try it again," she said.



Scorecard

Highest grade: Tutorial: A-

Lowest grade:
Documentation:
C+

Minimum requirements:

356, 4 MB of RAM, 11 MB of hard disk space, Windows 3.1.





EasyPainter from Genius is the best input device that performs better than a Mouse or Trackball, it's your personal 5" x 5" Drawing Pad. EasyPainter is superior for painting, tracing pictures and free-hand drawing. With EasyPainter, you can improve applications in both Windows and DOS.

Add creativity to your PC productivity by enhancing visual aids, business presentations, school projects or simply-just doodle more imaginatively on your computer. For more information or for a dealer near you, call

1-800-456-7593

AVAILABLE AT:

• PC Zone • Tiger Direct • COMPUTER • Incredible Universe •

KYE International Corp • 2605 E Cedar St • Ontario • CA • 91761 • USA

© 1994 KYE International Corp. All prducts and brand names mentioned are registered trademarks of their respective companies.

Microsoft Excel 5.0



B+

Scorecard

Highest grades: Sorting data, calculations: A

Lowest grade: Ease of use: B

Minimum requirements:

386, 4 MB of RAM, 17 MB of hard disk space, Windows 3.1. Excel won our testers' hearts by offering a diverse set of tools in a complete, straightforward, easy-to-use package.

"I felt most comfortable with Excel," said Rene Babich Dumas, who uses Excel on her Macintosh at home. "I'm not mathematically

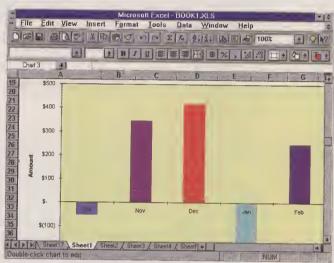
oriented, and it works well for me," she added, expressing a common sentiment among our testers.

The group rated Excel better than the other two spreadsheets in nearly every category we asked them to look at, including drawing a chart (B), sorting data (Λ), setting up and performing automatic calculations (Λ), manuals (B) and overall value (B+).

"There were little features I was so impressed with," said an enthusiastic John White, who uses Quattro Pro at home.

John especially liked an express function for moving around the screen: After typing in a chunk of data, hitting the Enter key in Excel causes the cursor to hop down the column to the next cell. In other

spreadsheets, pressing Enter after typing information in a worksheet simply tells the program that you have finished entering



Excel booster.

to wade through Excel's guided tour, which they found cumbersome. As the program explained how each task works, the testers had

to perform the task before they were able to

move on to the next topic. "It is a little an-

noving," granted Rene, the group's chief

found it forbidding," added John, who com-

"I'm tenacious about these things, and I

Our testers veported that Excel had more ups than downs.

"If you ignore [a few] printing problems, this is fabulous." —James Sarrantonio

data in that particular cell; you then have to use the arrow keys or your mouse to move to the next cell. "Moving around the screen in Excel was slick as could be, almost like magic," said John.

Our testers mustered only a few significant criticisms of Excel. Printing problems drew the biggest complaints. For example, James Sarrantonio couldn't figure out how to print just a single chart from his worksheet without the name of the file at the top and its page number within the worksheet at the bottom. He had to print out the entire worksheet.

Although it's easy to find the printing options that allow you to print selected text, selected worksheets or an entire workbook, the controls for changing the default header and footnote are hidden behind the page-setup menu. "If you ignore the printing problems, this program is fabilious." said James. Even with those problems, he said, "I bludgeoned my way through it."

Our testers also complained about having

plained that for all the annoyance, the program still didn't adequately explain how to draft graphical charts. He had trouble creating the charts after he had typed in the nec-

essary information.

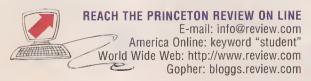
Our testers also wished that Excel had a help feature to make it easier to find any mistakes in the calculations the

user sets up. "I couldn't get it to compute, and I finally figured out after 15 minutes that I had typed an extra space into the equation, which threw everything off," Rene said. "Sometimes it was difficult to get the help that I needed. Microsoft should offer a more detailed aspect to the tutorial or onscreen assistance for problems like this within the program."





ONLY THE PRINCETON REVIEW CAN TAKE YOU INSIDE THE SAT.





The Prineeton
Review is the
nation's most
popular SAT eourse.
Our small elasses.

highly trained instructors, practice exams, and up-to-date materials help our students improve their seores dramatically.



Now we've brought our techniques to your Windows™ PC or Mae®. *Inside the* SAT puts our

exclusive test-taking methods, practice exams, a personalized study plan, and much more at your fingertips.



You ean also piek up Cracking the SAT, the only New York Times best seller that's been elassroom-tested on

hundreds of thousands of students.

Please give us a eall or contact us on line. We'll help you figure out your best path to a great SAT score.



THE PRINCETON REVIEW

(800) 2-REVIEW

Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. Macintosh is a registered trademark of Apple Computer, Inc. The Princeton Review is not affiliated with Princeton University or the Educational Testing Service. Photo by Ken Shung.

Quattro Pro 6.0



Scorecard

Highest grade: Sorting data: B+

Lowest grade: Tutorial: B

Minimum requirements:

386, 7 MB of RAM, 10 MB of hard disk space, Windows 3.1. Quattro Pro landed right in the middle of a tight field. More than anything else, our testers praised the spreadsheet program's ease of use,

giving it the highest grade (B) of the three spreadsheets for that category. They gave it its highest grade for sorting data (B+), although Excel rated an A in that

category, and that explains in a nutshell how our testers reacted to this program: While its grades were solid in every eategory, Quattro Pro didn't turn our testers' heads with any one feature the way the other two programs did.



The group calculated Quattro Pro's value as solid, if unspectacular.

Its lowest ratings came for its tutorial and overall value (B's). In fact, the opening tutorial—which walks users through Quattro Pro's various features—rated at the bottom of the three spreadsheet programs we tested. "The tour was much too simple to provide any vital information." said James Sarrantonio.

"In order to get any really useful information about the program," James continued, "you have to read the book." John White agreed: "The tutorial is too skimpy on the details." If you rely on the tutorial, he said, "you're really left out at sea."

While all our testers praised the product for its overall accessibility and ease of use, they complained that it offered too little help when they ran into problems or found themselves scratching their heads over an unfamiliar feature.

Rene Babieh Dumas wondered if Quattro Pro's developers had thought much about the non-technical user. "Maybe they aren't interested in helping me, a beginner, or maybe they're trying to do something for people who aren't using it at home."

Drawing a graph, for example, proved to be especially troublesome for our testers. "Graphing was a bit difficult for the beginner, and the program wasn't very helpful,"

"There were nice goodies with Quattro Pro, and it was easy to learn." —John White

said John, who uses Quattro Pro for DOS at home. Other testers agreed. "I especially needed help when it came to the pie chart; it was a job," James said. "There should be much more specific help available."

But there's good news, too. Our testers liked Quattro Pro's data-entry and data-manipulation tools, which they left helped make using the program fairly intuitive.

"There were niee goodies with Quattro Pro, and it was easy to learn," John said. He particularly relished the ability to sweep a large area of the screen with the cursor, the eolumn setup and the program's layout. From his perspective, "There are no serious disadvantages to this program."

Although Quattro Pro narrowly missed taking the top grade for its doeumentation and its auto-

mated helper, or "wizard," (it received B's from our testers in both eategories), everyoue in the group had kind words for these aspects of the program.

"The book seemed to be laid out logically, and it was easy to find information," John noted. "If you're familiar with Windows, though, you probably shouldn't even have to read the manual."



New Now it's <u>easier</u> than ever to create professional, custom brochures!



Custom color marketing materials from your own black and white

printer. Now you can create a professional image for your business without having to pay a designer! MyBrochures, Mailers & More is a new software program that works together with over 300 pre-printed color papers to give you great-looking brochures, business cards, postcards and much more for a fraction of the cost of traditional color printing.

After creating your marketing materials with MyBrochures, simply place the color paper in your laser or inkjet printer and print however many you need. Paper samples and catalogs are included with the software for easy paper ordering.



No other software product displays as many paper designs on screen!

And no other software makes it easier to work with these papers. With MyBrochures, the papers are displayed on the screen making it easy to place text, graphics, and photos.



Easier than word processors and desktop publishers. MyBrochures takes only five minutes to learn the basics and saves you hours of formatting. All of the formats, from brochures through business cards, are already set up and ready to go. Just click and type anywhere or easily import text from your word processor.

Customizing and mailing your brochures is a breeze! The built-in mail merge prints names and addresses stored in MyMailList or any dbf format database directly on your marketing materials. Targeted marketing has never been easier!

MySoftware Company

Helping Your Small Business Get the Job Done

MyBrochures, Mailers & More gives you better-looking output.

With MyBrochures you get great graphics and design tools, and dozens of formats to choose from. Brochure formats include two-fold, trifold, and four-fold with options for landscape, portrait, rotary cards and self-mailers.

MyBrochures also does business cards, postcards, signs, flyers, frames, certificates, programs, menus and much, much more!

No other software program offers you all of these features and formats for creating

your own professional marketing materials.

\$99.95
Now only
\$69.95



Try MyBrochures, Mailers & More

No Risk 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee

To order direct, call **1-800-325-350**

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Mention Code S5 to get special offer.

Give your child a head start on learning. Award-winning educational software from Sierra® uses bright graphics and engaging activities to make learning fun for children 3–12.

Several titles in Sierra's critically acclaimed Talking Tutor™ series have received excellent reviews—Spelling Jungle recently won the Child's Best award for 1994. and Early Math was awarded a five-star rating by Children's Software Revue. Other titles in the series have received the National Parenting Center's Seal of Approval.

To find more smart ideas for kids, ask for Sierra's entire line of highly acclaimed, award-winning educational software at your local software retailer or call 1-800-757-7707, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Works on PC or Macintosh, disk or CD-ROM

Smart Ideas for Kids

ONE WITH YOUR CHILD Talking Tutor · Spelling Mastery

- · Memory Tricks
- · Language Skills
 - "...so enticing that children will go to it with the gusto usually reserved for Nintendo. –Joyce Sunila, children's media critic and noted writer

©1994 Sierra On-Line, Inc.









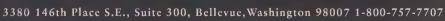




Try the entire Talking Tutor series from Sierra with our Kid's CD Sampler, just \$3.99.



R



reschool-grade

GIVING KIDS A GOOD HEAD START

"It's my turn now!" shouted 3-year-old Kelsey after watching her big sister Jillian. 6. add a nose to the face taking shape

on screen. Kelsey had been at the keyboard just moments before, but she scemed to feel that Jillian's turn lasted an eternity.

Tugs-of-war over the computer break out all the time when you don't have enough machines to go

around for all the children in your house. And sometimes, little brothers and sisters feel left out or inferior when they see older, more al treasures—all the sushi in Japan, for instance, or the color from Jamaica's Blue Mountains. The standard Carmen games are designed for kids who can read on-screen clues; kids using the junior edition hear the hints read aloud and trace the clues by moving a spyglass around the screen until it lights up. A simple puzzle reveals a picture of Carmen's sticky-fingered friend; the clues, such as a flag or indigenous animal, help kids determine to which outpost the thief has fled. The same images also appear on pop-up maps, so kids can easily match the cluc to the

location. Of course, as they chase the thieves around the

How to turn sibling rivalry into mousepad revelry

skilled siblings doing things at the computer that are still beyond their own grasp. Such emotions can bruise a child's ego or, in the worst case. even discourage a young one from using the home computer at all.

Parents must be sensitive to the special computing needs of preschoolers and children in the early grades. This requires plan-

ning, the patience to mediate younger kids' disputes with older siblings and a library of software suitable for children at diffcrent stages of development.

One way you can encourage vounger kids to join in the fun and feel world, the young detectives get the opportunity to learn about different cultures and hear a variety of local music.

Another game. The Manhole Masterpicce Edition, will strike a chord with kids whose parents or older siblings are fans of the game Myst. Cyan Software, maker of both programs, often calls The Manholc "Kid Myst"

'Myst' the boat?

The Manhole

Masterpiece

Edition lets

vonuger siblings

experience a

grown-up

computer

game's style.

they have a place at the PC is through simplified "junior" versions of games they've seen their older brothers and sisters play. The versions for younger kids substitute spoken prompts and

pictures for game clues that in the original programs require reading and more devel-

oped logic skills.

Just as in the original Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?, the Junior Detective Edition, for ages 5 to 8, asks players to track down the wilv troublemaker's henchmen, who are on the lam with a variety of stolen nation-



because it uses the panoramic scencry and visual style that helped make its elder cousin a favorite of teens and grown-ups. The Manhole is a fairy tale to delight kids—and many adults, too. Uncovering the manhole reveals a giant vine. Players click the mouse to climb to a forest in the sky or slide into a sparkling blue sca to explore a magical sunken ship. They never know when they'll run into a talking walrus, a rabbit offering a cup of tca or a

dragon with a biscuit.

As kids explore the seemingly infinite world of The Manhole, the background changes from day to night. Every game unfolds differently, depending on how kids explore the scenes, encounter the characters, open drawers, peer into mailboxes and so forth.

When they're ready to come back to earth, kids will get a kick out of SimTown, a scaleddown version of the

popular SimCity urban-planning simulation game. Children build a village by dragging prefab houses, pizza parlors, hamburger stands and other elements into place. Sim-Town steers clear of zoning regulations, tax laws and other minutiae, concentrating instead on basic concepts such as supply and demand, ecology and city planning. For instance, kids learn why a town with nothing but pizza parlors won't last. If fast food is their only industry, they'll soon discover there isn't chough business to go around. The surroundings will deteriorate paint starts to peel, awnings tear, fires break out—and the owners



To help kids feel at home with a PC, KidDesk is top-drawer.

won't be able to afford repairs.

SimTown is recommended for ages 8 to 12, but I think that's too conservative—preschoolers will have fun assembling the city and choosing residents (known as "Sims"), even if they don't master the skills needed to run City Hall.

While junior versions of popular games are terrific for showing younger children that they have a place at the computer, you can build on that feeling in other ways, too. For example, try software that personalizes each child's program menu with special icons that open his or her favorite games. KidDesk Family Edition and Launch Pad

both let you create a special screen for each child and include password protection so that your own program files remain out of reach.

KidDesk lets you decorate a virtual "desktop" for each child—if you have a scanner, you can even copy a picture of the child who "owns" the desk into an on-screen picture frame. Launch Pad has six scenes—including outer space, the ocean and a haunted

house—that kids can decorate with wacky icons and animated figures.

Personal icons and programs help young kids feel at home at the computer, but what do you do when two or more kids want to visit their on-screen homes at the same time? One way to keep the peace is to encourage kids to collaborate on projects. For instance, suggest they work in teams to decorate cards or banners, or brainstorm solutions to an adventure game.

Kelsey and Jillian's father, Mark Orr, says it's a good idea to enforce a finite play period. If an activity requires kids to take turns, the Orrs use a kitchen timer to regulate computer play. It also helps that a child eager to see a finished project rushes for the printer, leaving the keyboard free for someone else.

Then again, for some preschoolers, just sitting at the computer with friends and family is reason enough to be happy. My 3-year-old, Sarah, loves to sit with her 16-year-old cousin as he plays his games. He lets her help out by positioning the mouse on the screen. She has no idea what the games are about—she's just happy to spend time with her cousin. And when you get right down to it, that togetherness in pursuit of a common goal may be the most valuable computer experience of all.



Warren Buckleitner is editor of Children's Software Revue in Ypsilanti, Mich., and a former elementary school teacher.

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the games and personalized-desktop software mentioned in this article.

KidDesk Family Edition

Edmark, (800) 426-0856, (206) 556-8400 \$41.99 (Windows)

Launch Pad

Berkeley Systems, (800) 344-5541, (510) 540-5535 \$49.99 (Macintosh, Macintosh CD-ROM)

The Manhole Masterpiece Edition

Cyan Software, (800) 718-8887, (509) 468-0807 \$49.95 (Macintosh CD-ROM)

SimTown

Maxis, (800) 336-2947, (510) 254-9700 \$44.95 (Macintosh CD-ROM; DOS CD-ROM due in March)

Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego? Junior Detective Edition

Broderbund Software, (800) 521-6263, (415) 382-4600 \$40 (DOS CD-ROM, Windows CD-ROM)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.



Any computer information service that has a place for everything from software to hardware certainly has a place for you.



Log on to CompuServe, and you're

logging on to the wide-open cyberspaces.

Check One:
Novice computer user Experienced computer user

HPC3/95

Because on CompuServe, you join over two and a half

business resources, and much, much more.



And CompuServe is just \$9.95 a month for

unlimited connect time — day or night — to a

Free CompuServe membership kit for Home PC readers.

To order, just mail this card, or call $1\ 800\ 487-0588$ and ask for the Home PC representative.

rvices. News, nd restaurant re just some of vices for a

em-

or

		ır free me
Name		ter dealer,
Address		ernational
City, State	Zip	/ou've been
(Day Phone	() Evening Phone	
DOS 3.5 5.25 Mac Windows 3.5 5	Compuserve	ve

t outgrow.

dragon with a biscuit.

As kids explore the seemingly infinite world of The Manhole, the background changes from day to night. Every game unfolds differently, depending on how kids explore the scenes, encounter the characters. open drawers, peer into mailboxes and so forth.

When they're ready to come back to earth. kids will get a kick out of SimTown, a scaleddown version of the

popular SimCity urban-planning simulation game. Children build a village by dragging prefab houses, pizza parlors, hamburger stands and other elements into place. Sim-Town stccrs clear of zoning regulations, tax laws and other minutiae, concentrating instead on basic concepts such as supply and demand, ecology and city planning. For instance, kids learn why a town with nothing but pizza parlors won't last. If fast food is their only industry, they'll soon discover there isn't enough business to go around. The surroundings will deteriorate paint starts to peel, awnings tear, fires break out—and the owners



To help kids feel at home with a PC, KidDesk is top-drawer.

won't be able to afford repairs.

SimTown is recommended for ages 8 to 12, but I think that's too conservative—preschoolers will have fun assembling the city and choosing residents (known as "Sims"), even if they don't master the skills needed to run City Hall.

While junior versions of popular games are terrific for showing younger children that they have a place at the computer, you can build on that feeling in other ways, too. For example, try software that personalizes each child's program menu with special icons that open his or her favorite games. KidDesk Family Edition and Launch Pad

both let you create a special screen for each child and include password protection so that your own program files remain out of reach.

KidDesk lets vou decorate a virtual "desktop" for each child-if you have a scanner, you can even copy a picture of the child who "owns" the desk into an on-screen picture frame. Launch Pad has six scenes—including outer space, the ocean and a haunted

house—that kids can decorate with wacky icons and animated figures.

Personal icons and programs help young kids feel at home at the computer, but what do you do when two or more kids want to visit their on-screen homes at the same time? One way to keep the peace is to encourage kids to collaborate on projects. For instance, suggest they work in teams to decorate cards or banners, or brainstorm solutions to an adventure game.

Kelsev and Jillian's father, Mark Orr, says it's a good idea to enforce a finite play period. If an activity requires kids to take turns, the Orrs use a kitchen timer to regulate computer play. It also helps that a child eager to see a finished project

shoppe"'-

FREE OFFER HPC 3/95

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 407 COLUMBUS, OHIO

POSTAGE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

COMPUSERVE NEW MEMBER DEPARTMENT 5000 ARLINGTON CENTER BLVD. PO BOX 20961 COLUMBUS OH 43220-9910

NO POSTAGE **NECESSARY** IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES



Any computer information service that has a place for everything from software to hardware certainly has a place for you.

Log on to CompuServe, and you're logging on to the wide-open cyberspaces.

Because on CompuServe, you join over two and a half million members and gain nearly 2,000 different ways to make your life easier, more fun, and a lot smarter.

For instance, just about every major hardware and software vendor is represented

on CompuServe, along with plenty of people working on the same kind of equipment you are. So you can get the advice you need, quickly and easily. There are thousands of freeware and shareware programs available, too. You can also have lively discussions on subjects ranging from pets to woodworking in our forums, shop in the Electronic Mall® for the newest merchandise, take advantage of our many

business resources, and much, much more.

And CompuServe is just \$9.95 a month for unlimited connect time — day or night — to a full package with more than 100 popular services. News, stock quotes, travel arrangements, movie and restaurant reviews, and 90 e-mail messages a month are just some of what's available. Along with many other services for a nominal additional charge.

So check us out. To get your free membership kit, just see your computer dealer, or call 1 800 487-0588 (614 529-1349 for international inquiries). CompuServe. It's just the places you've been looking for.



The information service you won't outgrow.

An Ocean of Fun, Ideas and Knowledge.

Interactive multimedia adventures that thrill, entertain and educate. For natural-born leaders who deserve more than video games (and the families who love them).

When you're looking for the finest interactive experiences in

CD-ROM, look to the leader in reallife, real-world entertainment — The Discovery Channel. Stunning photography. Eye-popping video by award-winning cinematographers. Compelling graphics. Rich, detailed audio. Distinguished scientific experts. Content-rich CD-ROMs that use over 90% of disk space.

Available at your local software dealer or call 1-800-762-2189 for more information.

Available in Windows and Mac formats.



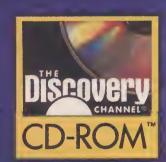
SWIM WITH WHALES.

Find yourself side-by-side with these majestic leviathans of the deep. Listen to their songs. Experience the power and intelligence of the world's largest mammals.

DIVE WITH SHARKS.

Hunt with the Great Whites.

Talk to the experts. Challenge your myths and learn the truth about nature's most efficient predator.



EVERY TRIP IS A NEW ADVENTURE

grades

ENCOURAGING LOVE O F LEARNING

My father jokes that everyone in our family must have been vaccinated with phonograph needles when we were kids: We're all big talkers. But our family's gift of gab isn't likely to disappear now that the compact disc's laser beam dominates the stereo. It really flows from a love of the English language that's common among my relatives and evident to the kids in our family from a very young age.

I don't believe we're unique in this regard; language fascinates most kids. When young-

Dictionary (best for ages 5 to 10), features a friendly voice that tells kids how to explore some 1,000 words in the program. Clicking on a letter of the alphabet reveals a group of words beginning with that letter. Words highlighted in red encourage budding lexicographers to uncover related terms. All the words are illustrated with photos, and some items are shown in detail that starts a trail to other words—under "car," for instance, kids see pictures of a steering wheel, headlights, other auto parts and other motor vehicles.

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary for Kids.

more than 33,000 electronic entries, five

winning word games and a printed booklet

called "The 1,278 Words Every Child

for ages 8 to 12, ineludes

Why is a PC dictionary spellbinding? It's the wordplay

sters enter kindergarten, their verbal vocabulary typically ranges from 3,000 to 6,000 words. By the time kids tackle middle-school

have a much bigger arsenal of words at the ready.

writing assignments, they

Kids should relish opportunities to expand their vocabularies. Everyday activities are full of spontaneous discoveries about words and their meanings.

But rote memorization in school, while effective, just docsn't excite kids. Dictionary software, on the other hand, is a promising new tool that can hook kids on the grace and poetry of their native tongue—and kick-start a love of words.

These programs are much more engaging than anything Samuel Johnson ever dreamed up to check spelling, parts of speech and phonetic pronunciations. Kids who use dictionary software can hear how words are pronounced rather than struggle to decode the mysterious accent and vowel marks in bound dictionaries. By clicking on highlighted words, they can check out related terms, browse richly illustrated or animated demonstrations of the word's meaning, and play word games that help them retain what they've learned.

One program, My First Incredible Amazing



Should Know." Children can pick words from an alphabetical list or use the program's Surprise Me feature to see words selected at random. Besides showing kids a word's phonetic spelling, part of speech, related expressions and homonyms, the software offers several definitions, sound effects, animations and illustrations.

The games in Dictionary for Kids can be downright habit-forming. In Monster in a Box, for instance, players see letters and try to guess the word before a furry creature breaks out of his padlocked box. And in DaniBot VI, kids build a chain of words by changing one letter at a time. For example,

for greener

Box looks

Spelling

In this

behemoth:

Dictionary for

Kids game, if

players don't

pick the right

Monster in the

letters, the

pastures.



"top" becomes "bus" in five steps: top, pop, pup, put, but, bus.

Zak, an animated sheet of paper, guides players through the Macmillan Dictionary for Children's 12,000 words, 400 sound effects, 1,000 illustrations and three word games. As kids ages 6 to 12 learn new words, they can add them to My List—which keeps the words handy for reference and helps

them become more familiar—or copy the words to other Windows programs. The software also features variations on the classic Spelling Bee and Hangman games.

Electronic dictionaries make a fine start for creating fun games at home that build kids' vocabularies. For example, ask kids to look up a word, select some clucs (secondary definitions, parts of speech, number of syllables, and so on) and then challenge you, a sibling or a friend to guess the word. Each clue counts as one point; the player with the lowest number of points wins the game. You can get several kids in on the action and treat it like a game show.

Or, try staging a word-link contest modeled on the old Geography game. Give kids a word and ask them to come up with another that begins with the first word's last letter. Do the same for each succeed-



Macmillan's Dictionary illustrates 1,000 words.

ing word and write them all down to make a chain. See how long it grows and ask the kids to repeat the words in order and tell you what each one means.

Even my father would agree that for sharpening youngsters' communication skills, today's technology helps enhance any family's love of words and language. One thing hasn't changed, though: The sound of a growing vocabulary is just as sweet as it's always been.



Sharon McCoy Bell is director of the Information Technology Center of the New Orleans Public Schools and a former middle-school

teacher. In 1993, she won the Computerworld Smithsonian Informational Technology Leadership Award for Education.

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the dictionary software mentioned in this article.

Macmillan Dictionary for Children

Simon & Schuster Interactive, (800) 983-5333, (212) 698-7000 \$24.75 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM)

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary for Kids

Mindscape, (800) 234-3088, (415) 883-3000 \$49.95 (Windows CD-ROM)

My First Incredible Amazing Dictionary
Dorling Kindersley, (800) 356-6575, (212) 213-48

Dorling Kindersley, (800) 356-6575, (212) 213-4800 \$47.96 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.



Jamie's artwork has always been beautiful, but now the pictures are easier to create — and they even make sounds!

Your Child's Imagination Comes To Life With Colorforms® For The Computer

The Colorforms[®] software family provides palettes of pre-drawn objects that your child can use over and over in endless combinations. Each package offers five different special effects options with sound and up to 12 pre-designed backgrounds—or your child can create totally new backgrounds.

Open your child's imagination to fun, adventure and learning with Colorforms for Windows or Macintosh:

- Computer Fun Set[™] for ages 3-10
- My First Colorforms® for ages 3-6
- Suzy's Zoo® for ages 3-10

To take advantage of this special offer, call Gryphon Software at 1-800-795-0981 and ask for Lee or visit your local computer store.

Gryphon Software Corporation 7220 Trade Street, Suite 120 San Diego, California 92121 (619) 536-8815 (619) 536-8932 Fax



Burke's class le Austin, Age 6





Colorforms® Play Shapes Jamie Austin, Age 6



1994 © Coloriorms. All rights reserved. TM or ⊕ Indicates a trademark of Coloriorms and is used by permission. Licensed in conjunction with Kiscont, linc, Names International, Inc. and International Computer Corpus, Inc. Gryphon logio is a trademark of Gryphon Software Corporation. All rights reserved. Suzy's Zoo is a registered trademark of Suzy's Zoo. Developed and marketed under license from SUZYS ZOO, San Diego California, U.S.A.



The interactive CD-ROM trail adventure is about to begin!

and death decisions! *EXPLORE*Old West landmarks in 3-D! *TAL*with historical characters! *FACE* unexpected adventure
everytime! *LEMN* what it
took to be a real pioneer!

Sneak Preview! To reserve your Free Demo CD of Oregon Trail® II, call 1-800-685-MECC, ext.249.

91994 MECC

HELPING TEENS DEFINE THEIR FUTURE



For all the ways computers improve high-school students' lives. classroom note-taking in 1995 looks a lot like it did in horseand-buggy days. Every semester, high-school students fill hundreds of sheets of paper with handwritten notes. From history class to science labs, for math

problems and literary discussions. teenagers put pen to paper and dutifully scribble lesson highlights day in and day out.

But if kids flushed with anticipation and brand-new binders organize their notebooks gories such as Title, Subject, Author, Keywords and Comments. Filling in these fields also eneourages students to think about the information and organization of their origi-

Suppose your daughter enters notes for five classes in five new files each day starting in January. Within weeks, she's got a lot of files, and it's no easy task figuring out what information they contain from their names alone. For example, to locate information on the Cettysburg Address in a series of files named civwar1.his, civwar2.his and so on, she'd have to open and examine them one by one. But if

she had included "Cettysburg" as a

Reviewing classwork? Here's some 'noteworthy' software

with care in September, by March these collections often retain only the vaguest sense of order. With final exams and term papers on

ble to turn their chickenscratch into logical, legible English. That's where the computer can help.

If students haven't been doing so all year, they should get in the habit of converting

the way, high-schoolers may have to scram-

kids put in

Summary

judgment: The

more keywords

Word's

document-

summary box,

the easier a

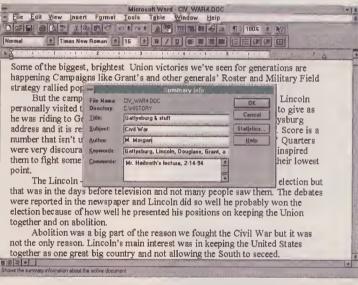
search will be

later.

their paper notes into computer files on a regular basis. Retyping notes may seem a passive, time-consuming activity at first, but it offers kids a perfect opportunity to review coursework and shore up their understanding of what was discussed in class. What's more, familiarity with class notes frequently reduces

a student's anxiety level when it's time to take a test or start a research paper.

Recent versions of two popular word processing packages, WordPerfect and Microsoft Word, include terrific features for note-takers. Document-summary screens, for example, make it easy to look up notes on a given topic. The summary boxes, which either pop up when users create or save a file or are found in the pull-down menu at the top of the screen, contain fields to type in catekeyword in a document-summary screen, all she'd need to do is run a search, type in "Cettysburg" and hit Enter; the word processor will locate and retrieve the relevant files.



To ensure that vital information doesn't slip through the cracks, students should consider all possible relevant keywords as they fill out their summary screens. For example, if a history teacher punctuates a discussion of the Middle Ages by referring to "medieval times" in one class and "Dark Ages" in another, students should take care to list "inedieval," "Dark" and "Middle" as keywords.

Students who use word processors that lack summary and file-search features can still use software to reinforce their study skills. For example, they can ereate document-simmary

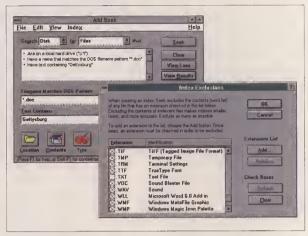


headers for each file to make searches easier. (It helps to organize the listings as WordPerfect and Word do-by Title, Subject, Author, Keywords and Comments—in a stored template that's always ready to be pasted into the file.) Although kids ean't use the template for keyword searches, filling in the fields focuses their thinking on the informa-

tion in their notes and the way it's been organized. Then, when they open the files, the header makes it a breeze to sean that information.

High-sehoolers can also boost their search power by using information-management software. One affordable package, Alki Seek, searches a hard disk and retrieves all files that contain a given keyword. After installation, Alki Seek indexes every word in every file on your disk automatically; it adds to that index whenever you create a new document or update a file.

Alki Seek's searches take longer than those conducted with Word-Perfect and Word's document-summary screens, but even so, they rarely take longer than a minute. And students can learn to save time by narrowing the search parameters—a range of dates when the files they need may have



Alki Seek indexes class notes stored on a hard drive.

been created, for example, or the file extensions (such as .doc).

By developing the discipline to type their notes into the PC regularly, students can make more efficient use of their study time. They'll refine, organize and focus on their notes, and the minutes or even hours that once would have been devoted to deciphering a serawl or figuring out where papers are squirreled away can instead be spent reviewing and interpreting information. And that's an advantage worth noting. •



David Hoffman is a Philadelphia-based education writer. He has held the positions of senior editor at Learning94 and associate editor at

Technology & Learning.

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the word-processing and file-search software mentioned in this article.

Alki Seek

Alki Software, (500) 669-9673, (206) 286-2600 \$69.95 (Windows, Macintosh; \$39.95 direct from Alki)

Word

Microsoft, (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080 \$495 (DOS, Windows, Macintosh)

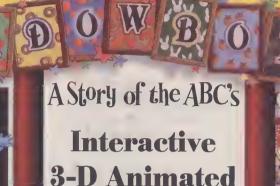
WordPerfect

WordPerfect, (\$00) 451-5151, (\$01) 225-5000 \$395 (DOS, Windows, Macintosh)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.



The Book Of



Playmate

Shadowboxes provides hours of fun while your child learns to read.

Ages 3-8

Mac CD-ROM Windows CD-ROM Now Available!

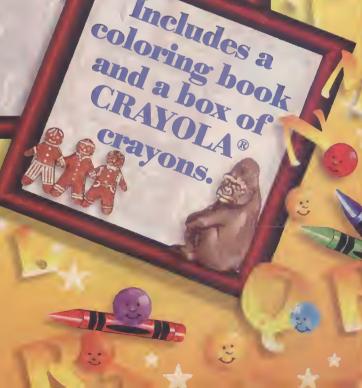
For More Information Call 1-800-898-8842

© 1995 International Business Machines Corporation. All rights reserved.

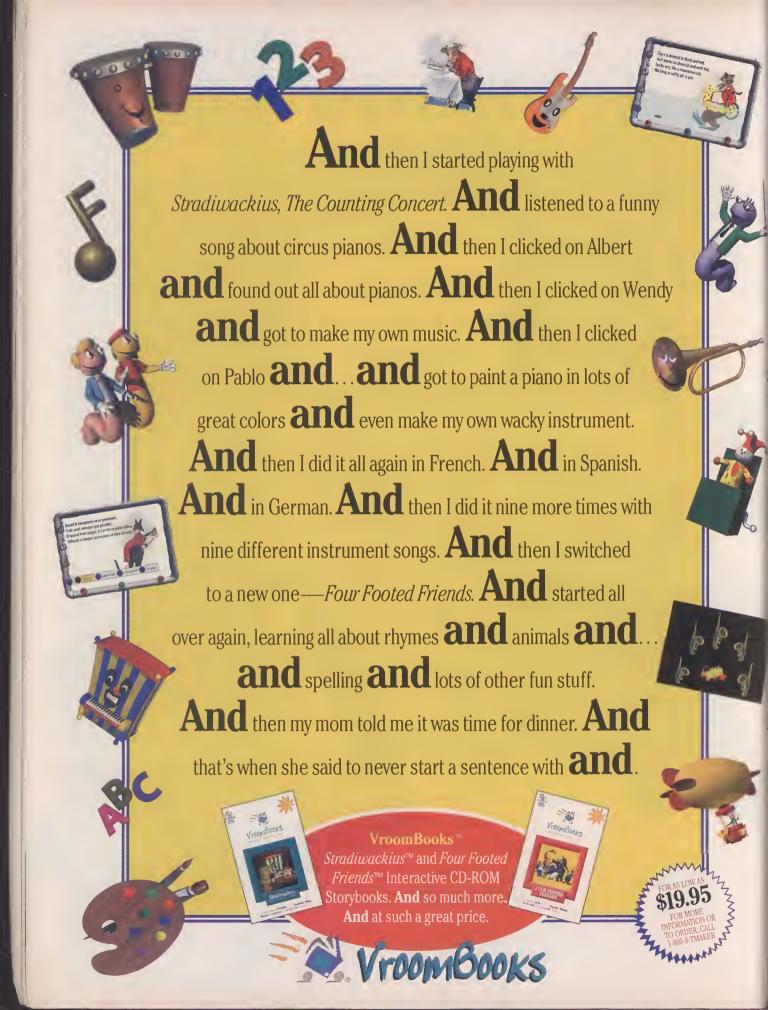
Developed from the print edition originally issued by Peachtree Publishers, Atlanta, GA.

Text and illustration by Laura L. Seyley. © CRAYOLA is a registered trademark of Binney & Smith Inc., used with permission





Includes a



kid raves

HONEST APPRAISALS FROM OUR YOUNG EXPERTS

Aladdin Activity Center

Center
Disney
Interactive
Ages: 5 and up
(Games,
creativity,
movies)

It never fails: If the children who test software in our Kids' Lab love a movie. they'll race for any computer program based on it. All eight kids who tested the Aladdin Activity Center adored the film and regularly tune in to the eartoon series on TV. Needless to say, the CD-ROM granted their wishes to interact with the story.

Even 12-year-old Diana, who felt the dise's games are "really for younger kids," sang along with the music and got a kick out of the videos. "Look at

they can go to the bazaar or visit the palace and color in drawings of Aladdin's adventures, tackle a puzzle, wend their way through a

zle, wend their way through a maze, play a match game or explore other activities.

Each game features

three difficulty levels and keeps kids interested by ehanging the ehallenges at random each time they play. But some games are designed better than others. Even at the easiest level in the connect-the-dots game, for instance, kids found it tricky to position the pointer.

"If it's tough for me," said Russell, 9, "it's going to be really

hard for younger kids." It was. The 4and 5-year-olds de-

cided to leave the dots alone and concentrate on the program's other games. The disc played best with kids ages 5 to 10.

Aladdin also requires a fairly new eomputer system with up-to-date



the animation! It's great!" she exclaimed. "It's not exactly like the film, but it's really good."

the film, but it's really good."

In fact, though much of the animation in the Aladdin Activity Center is a depended from the marie

adapted from the movie and re-animated for the CD-ROM, the likenesses are quite impressive.

When kids tire of the video elips,



Also reviewed in Kid Raves

- Professor Iris' Fun Field Trip:
 Animal Safari
- Ozzie's World
- CyberBoogie! with Sharon,
 Lois and Bram
- Recess in Greece
- Brimax Learning Together:
 The Rabbits at Home
- ColorForms Fun Set
- The Little Turtle and Ocean Escape

Reading the stars: Each program reviewed in this section is rated on a scale of 0 to 4 stars based on how well it sustained the interest of children in our Kids' Lab, their enthusiasm about playing it again, its educational content, reference materials, graphics and sound quality, the program's sensitivity to youngsters' skills, and whether the kids just plain had fun.

video drivers, 10 megabytes (MB) of hard-disk space and 8 MB of memory—which may pose a problem for parents who own older machines (see the box at right). But if you've got the power to unleash Aladdin's magic, you can bet your kids will cut a rug to board this magic carpet.

\$32.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from Disney Interactive, (800) 688-1520, (818)

543-4300.

Delighting *pupils*

Professor Iris'
Fun Field Trip:
Animal Safari
The Discovery
Channel
Ages: 3 and up

(Reading, math,

creativity)

The young experts in our Kids' Lab sure were happy to see Professor Iris, the wacky puppet from The Learning Channel's *Ready*, *Set*, *Learn* series, who comes to the home computer in this interactive storybook.

The professor describes his trek from the African desert to the grassy savanna in several languages, and kids can either read along or just listen. Jamie, 8, tried the Japanese version; she didn't understand the words, but she had fun trying to



decipher their look and sound. Abbe, 5, and her sister, Lisa, 8, decided to stick with English. No matter which language they choose, kids will have

a variety of games, coloring books and videos to click

on and explore.

The program offers a rich collection of counting and spelling games; in one. Professor Iris instructs kids in the spelling and definitions of natural-science terms like "desert" and "ornithology."

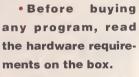
Abbe returned to the savanna

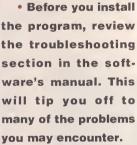
SOS? Make a game plan



Kids love the stunning videos and animation in software based on hit movies and TV shows-Disney's Aladdin Activity Center and Professor Iris' Fun Field Trip: Animal Safari from The Discovery Channel are just the latest examples. But many of these souped-up CD-ROMs require up-to-date hardware that many older systems lack. Although our kids gave the products rave reviews, moms and dads who have to deal with the technical difficulties are likely to get frustrated. Here are a few tips to mini-

mize the headaches:





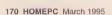


- If a program does not run or performs poorly, don't try to fix the problem yourself.
 Call the manufacturer's tech support line immediately.
- If you need a new video driver, ask the

tech staff to help you figure out which one you need and how to get it.

 If the problem can't be fixed, take advantage of the company's customer-satis-





faction policy. All reputable manufacturers have one; most offer a 30-day money-back

guarantee. Just call the customer service number (check the manual) for details on how to return the disc.

Our testers were grateful when we upgraded the Lab's ma-

chines and let them get on with the fun. We're grateful for our kids' help in producing these reviews. Our thanks to preschoolers Sammy Colonna, Lauren Mahon, Phoebe Pundyk and Annie Waterhouse,



and students Heather Banninger, Victoria and Joseph Baston, Chrissie Boehme, Brian Corrigan, Diana, Douglas and Russell Garber, Abbe and Lisa Goldberg, Genna Grande, Brianna Kelly, Jamie Laudage, Matthew Musumeci, Megan Race and Christopher Ralph. Special thanks to teachers Debbie Doyle and Bonnie Sugal, and Ann Erbes, director of CMP Publications' Child Care Center.—C.E.

over and over to color a lion. "And that's a cloud," she pointed out, manenvering the program's electronic paintbrush to splash a blue circle above the beast's head. The paint selections in the coloring book are limited, though, and it was sometimes difficult for our young experts to move the paintbrush without running over the lines.

The disc's 3-and-up age rating is somewhat optimistic; kids ages 5 to 10 liked it best. And, as with many new discs that use lots of animation, certain multimedia setups crossed up the program's performance. It worked beautifully on our Compaq, IBM PS/1 and Macintosh computers but required a video-driver update to work on a Micron and a PC clone. The Discovery Channel offers a money-back guarantee if you encounter problems.

\$49.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from The Discovery Channel, (800) 762-

2189, (301) 986-0444.

Otter confusion

Ozzie's World

Digital Impact Ages: 3 to 8 (Science, ecology)



1/2

Ozzic the Otter wants to teach your kids about the environment. His activity kit lets them explore five settings—from Ozzie's house (which looks like a typical suburban home) to the beach where his friend Rufus the Walrus is cleaning up junk that's floating in the ocean. At each location, children click to activate animated scenes and call up stories, games, puzzles or stepby-step instructions for 40 science experiments they can try away

from the computer.

But most of the kids in our tests had trouble navigating the disc. Although Ozzie told them early on to click on a signpost to

change locations, several young testers forgot and instead kept clicking on the icons they saw in each landscape.

"I'm clicking, but nothing's happening," complained 6-year-old Genna. To make matters worse,

the signpost calls up a map of destinations, but its icons don't resemble the landscapes. Ozzie's house, for example, is represented by a bcd.

The design is meant to promote deductive reasoning, but it proved too difficult for the 3- and 4-year-olds testing the disc. About half of them grew frustrated with the map and gave up on the program before getting to the activities.

\$49.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Maciutosh CD-ROM) from Digital Impact, (800) 775-4232, (918)

742-2022.

The new zoo revue

CyberBoogie!
With Sharon,
Lois and Bram

Times Mirror Multimedia Ages: 3 to 9 (Creativity) CyberBoogie! is the CD-ROM counterpart to Niekelodeon's *The Elephant Show*, a musical revue for kids. It stars that show's songand-dance team, Sharon, Lois and Bram, and features the trio's musical hits—songs like "Skinnamarink," "Tingalayo" and "Rags."

"Oh! Look who it is!" deelared 6-year-old Matt, a Nickelodeon fan, when Sharon, Lois and Bram introduced the program and explained



how kids can use it to make their own animated musicals. When the intro ended, Matt got right to work.

He selected a "super scene" of a field from a series of backgrounds, ehose Clark the Crocodile as his main character and equipped the rollieking reptile with a briefcase he had selected from an animated library of "waeky things." Then Matt pushed his mouse in the direction in which he wanted Clark to move and wiggled the eursor near Clark's head and hands. When Matt started the show to review his handiwork, Clark danced, bobbing his head and waving his hands. Meanwhile, the briefease sprouted legs and ran aeross the screen.

"Look at that!" deelared Matt.

"Let's see what this does," he continued, plopping an egg onto the sereen. The egg eracked open and a chick popped out, jumped up and ducked back into the broken shell.

But while CyberBoogie! was an instant hit, it lost our young experts' attention after the first hour. Matt and his friends giggled as they tested what each object did, but in the end they seemed to prefer *The Elephant Show* itself to their own movies. After making a handful of musicals, they tired of the exercise and brought down the curtain.

\$49.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from Times Mirror Multimedia, (800) 747-1787,

(201) 307-8866.

Monkeying around with history

Recess in Greece

Morgan Interactive Ages: 7 to 12 (History) Brianna, 12, groaned when she heard "Old Haybreath," the equine teacher in Recess in Greece, chastise Morgan, a monkey, for his lack of historical perspective: "Don't you know that those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it?"

"That's what my teacher always says," Brianna replied. Then, looking at Morgan's horse-faced instructor, she added, "He even kind of looks like my teacher."

Morgan, who first appeared in Morgan's Trivia Machine (reviewed

in the January 1995 issue of *HomePC*), returns in this journey

through aneient Greece that looks suspiciously like the adventures in Homer's *Hiad*—except that at the crossroads of Mount Olympus, Sparta and Troy, Morgan discovers

a Parthenon lit like a diseo, Zeus talking like John Wayne, and Apollo, the god of music and light, jumping and jamming with more energy than a punk-rock band.

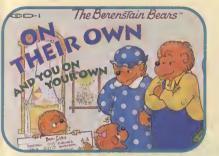
Morgan discovers more hilarious animations, running into Helen of Troy and the Trojan horse. Along the way, Morgan presents some impromptu trivia games.

Brianna, who had learned about ancient Greece in school, especially enjoyed the program, which seems

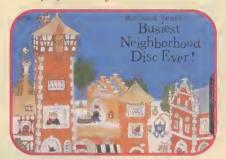


Berenstain Bears

Prepare your kids for school with a fun interactive story that teaches personal and social responsibilities. On CD-i.



Ricbard Scarry's Bussest Neighborbood Disc Ever! Your kids caa investigate Busytown's shops aad offices and encounter their favorite Ricbard Scarry characters in fun-filled learning adventures. Oa CD-i.



Crayon Factory Kids learn about colors and solve problems logically while touring a crayoa factory run by lovable robots.



Most children think an afternoon filled with math and reading is about as much fun as, well, an afternoon filled with math and reading. That is until they feast their eyes on six exciting programs from The Philips Family Entertainment Library.

Programs that will have them laughing and learning

We work VERY
HARD TO create
quality educational
PROGRAMMING.
And still children
JUST laugh at us.

through hours of enriching interactive activities. Programs so fun and amusing your kids won't even mind the educational part. Call the number below for more information or to order any of the discs shown. And who knows, you may actually live to hear the words "Please, Mom, just one more multiplication table."



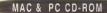
Stickybear Math
Kids learn basic math skills and play along with
the Stickybear family through interactive games
that educate, motivate, and entertain. On CD-i.
Coming soon on CD-ROM.

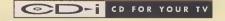


For more information or to order, call 1-800-5-10-7888.



Sandy's Circus Adventure
Kids can create their own exciting cartoons and
play enriching games with this interactive
storybook featuring Sandy's adveatures.
On CD-i and CD-ROM.







PHILIPS

best suited for kids ages 10 to 14 despite its 7-to-12 age rating. But while the mythology was lost on ehildren who had not yet studied the subject, the dise's humor and earieatures were enjoyed by all.

"He's cool," said Chrissie, 12, as Apollo worked his musical magic.

\$34.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from Morgan Interactive, (415) 693-9596.

Side-splitting hares

Brimax Learning Together: The Rabbits at Home

Reed
Interactive
Ages: 3 and up
(Discovery,
creativity)

"Watch this, I'm going to spray his head. Everybody look," declared Sammy, 4, as he clicked on the faucet that turned on the water that flowed through the hose that was aimed at the rabbit and covered the hapless bunny with a faceful of water. A half-dozen preschoolers shrieked and elapped with glee.

Activities in The Rabbits at Home complement basic preschool skills such as telling time, solving logic puzzles, and matching colors, num-

bers, letters and words. The hose is part of a maze game in which

kids must select the right hose from a knotted mass of tubes and turn on the correct faucet to water the Rabbits' flower garden—or, as Sammy discovered—the rabbits.

"That's what my grandma's clock does," Lauren, 5,
exclaimed when the Rabbits'
grandfather clock chimed to
indicate it was time for lunch.
Kids follow the Rabbit family
through a day, exploring as
they pitch in around the
house. At noon, kids click on
a cupboard to find cutlery
for the table; at night, they
go up to the bedroom to sleep.

The software is sold with four hardcover books from the original Brimax Rabbit Family series: ABC, 123, Find and Say and Read With Me. Each is handy to take where the computer

ean't go: to a pienie, say, or into a real-life garden.

\$59.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from Reed Interactive, (800) 308-6353, (301) 601-2159.

Slicker than stickers

ColorForms Fun Set

Gryphon Software Ages: 3 to 10 (Creativity) The dog barks. The eat meows. The boy laughs when kids place his picture into a scene. ColorForms, the popular stick-on art projects for kids, have come to the computer.

As with traditional ColorForms, kids build seenes by placing shapes and pictures in ready-made backgrounds. But here, they can paint



the items and narrate or sing a message to accompany their handiwork.

"Look at what I did," Lauren, 5, said proudly. She had quickly assembled a seene of a girl at the beach. But ColorForms' estimation of the program's suitability for younger kids seems off. Although Lauren had no trouble navigating the program, preschoolers got lost in the variety of tools, shapes and colors, and they had trouble elieking on the small on-screen buttons that activate them.

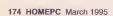
"Debbie, look what I did," Annie, 4, ealled proudly to her teacher after she had filled the sereen with smiley faces. But when Annie clicked on an

eraser in the Fun Set, it painstakingly removed the images one at a time, and she couldn't interrupt the

process to try something new. She waited impatiently for several minutes as the program erased some 50 grinning faces.

Three- and 4-year-olds who want to join in the fun will have an easier time with My First Color-Forms (\$49), a simplified version designed for kids ages 3 to 6.

\$49 (Windows, Macintosh) from Gryphon Software, (800) 795-0981, (619) 536-8815.



THE ONLY WAY TO TOP OUR CD -

GIVE YOU ONE FREE.

Get your first CD and Club KidSoft magazine FREE when you subscribe to KidSoft. Just call 1-800-354-6129 or mail in this card. Every three months, you'll receive

SEAT THIS EDGI

magazine—all for just \$7.95.

a new Club KidSoft CD and

FOLD ALONG THIS EDGE

SUBSCRIBE NOW AND GET YOUR FIRST CD AND MAGAZINE FREE.

To subscribe to KidSoft, call 1-800-354-6129, or fax this card to 1-408-354-1033, or mail this card to: KidSoft, 718 University Avenue, #112, Los Gatos, CA 95030.

YES! I would like to subscribe to KidSoft and receive the Club KidSoft CD and magazine every three months. When my subscription begins, I will receive my first CD and magazine FREE.

Select subscription preference:

\$7.95 PER ISSUE SUBSCRIPTION

After my first free issue, every three months I agree that \$7.95 per issue will automatically be billed to my credit card. I may cancel my subscription at any time. (Credit card payment only.)

\$29.95 YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION

After my first free issue, I will receive four more issues, one every three months. (Credit card or check payment accepted. If paying by check, please mail inside this card.)

CD Platform: Mac MPC* (*Requires Windaws 3.1 or greater) VISA

Credit Card #:

(PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

DAYTIME PHONE: CHILD'S NAME:

> Offer expires May 1, 1995. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of first issue. Subscriptions to Canada and Puerto Rico, add \$10 per year. Please remit in U.S. currency. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

KIDSOFT: 1-800-354-6129

Shopping for children's educational software has always been a gamble. Because until you buy a program and try it at home, you never know if it will be a hit. Or a stinker.

If that doesn't seem fair to you,

we agree. We're KidSoft, a company created by parents in search of a risk-free way to buy kids' software.

TRY AT HOME, BUY BY PHONE, DOWNLOAD SOFTWARE THAT YOU OWN.

Try before you buy. It may not sound like a revolutionary idea, but in software shopping, it is. And only KidSoft offers

it for so many titles from so many top software publishers.

Four times a year, we load up a new CD with best-selling educational software that is prescreened by our panel of experts, parents and kids. There's no shareware



KidSoft carries only national best-selling software from quality publishers like Broderbund, MECC and The Learning Company.

or violent games, only quality programs.

You can sample nearly 40 titles and learn about many more. Then, buy your favorite programs by phone and download them right off the CD. No modem required.

MORE KID STUFF FROM KIDSOFT.

Each CD also features the KidSoft ClubRoom™ full of interactive games, contests and multimedia activities. Plus, kids receive the Club KidSoft™ magazine, a colorful, oversized publication full of wacky stories, computer activities,

contests and software reviews.

GOODBYE STINKERS, HELLO KIDSOFT.

So instead of calling software stores to complain about stinkers, call KidSoft at 1-800-354-6129 or fax or mail in the card to subscribe. And start trying

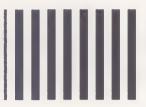
software before buying. It's a new idea. But you'll get used to it. @1995 KidSoft, Inc

You never know until you try

AHPCC5X1

PARENT'S SIGNATURE:

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



FIRST-CLASS MAIL

OSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

LOS GATOS CA

718 University Ave., Suite 112 Los Gatos, CA 95030-9958 (idSoft

FOLD ALONG THIS EDGE

CALL: 1-800-I-WILL-**NEVER-BUY-**ANOTHER-PIECE-OF-**SOFTWARE-THAT-**MY-KIDS-CAN'T-TRY-FIRST-Tired of SINCE-Istinkers? ND-UP-WASTING-MY-TIME-AND-MY-MONEY-BECAUSE-THEY-GET-**BORED-AFTER-JUST-**FIVE-MINUTES-AND-GO-BACK-TO-WATCHING-TV-@#%!

Interactive books for the school house

The Little
Turtle and
Ocean
Escape
Computer

Escape
Computer
Curriculum
Corp.
Ages: 3 to 7
(Reading)

For more than 20 years, Computer Curriculum Corp. has developed reading software for schools. Now, with The Little Turtle and Ocean Escape, sold separately, it brings its programs to the home.

Each release combines reading lessons with listening, speaking, vocabulary and logic skills. Vachel Lindsay's charming poem "The Little Turtle" is presented as an

interactive storybook; Ocean Escape is based on a song that invites kids to sing and read along. Each CD-ROM includes 35 activities and contains a 320-word multimedia glossary.

The software caters to kids across a wide age range, which is its main weakness. Three- and 4-year-olds in the lab had a hard time mastering the glossaries but enjoyed the stories and activities; older children easily found their way around the

glossaries but quickly tired of listening to the stories.

Like most instructional programs adapted for home use, these lack the lively animation, get-up-

and-dance sound effects and fanciful humor you'll find in other interactive books. But the flashier

software ean't match these discs' proven educational approach.

The young experts of our Kids' Lab enjoyed the stories and identified with the characters. "I want to be the turtle," said Sammy, 4, as he listened to Lindsay's poem. When it was over, he declared with delight, "I am the Little Turtle!"

\$49.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from Computer Curriculum Corp., (\$00) \$58-3672, (408) 745-6270.

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.

LEARN SOFTWARE: THE CLICK & EASY WAY! 1-800-CDLEARN

Never before has software training been so "Click & Easy!" We teach YOU how to use your software with very easy-to-follow interactive simulations, you won't get lost or confused. You will learn your software, guaranteed! No more training manuals, inconvenient video tape lessons or costly seminars.

ClassAct Multimedia gives you what you've needed all along, Windows software training on CD-ROM! With interactive step-by-step instructions, audio and video tips, and quizzes,

the ClassAct system includes a complete training curriculum of the most popular software programs the "Click & Easy" way.

Whether you're a beginner learning a newsoftware program or a professional polishing your skills, ClassAct gives you the ultimate interactive on-line help system. ClassAct's exclusive naviga-

line help system. ClassAct's exclusive navigational features allow you to select the functions you want to learn in the order you want to learn them. Look for ClassAct Multimedia at your local software retailer or call us.



SOFTWARE TRAINING
Microsoft Windows 3.11
Microsoft Word 6.0
WordPerfect 6.0 & 6.1
Microsoft Excel 5.0
QuattroPro 6.0
Microsoft Access 2.0
Microsoft Powerpoint 4.0
Quicken 4
WP Presentations 3.0
Corel Draw
Microsoft Access 2.0
Lotus and More!

PERFECT FOR
PER

ClassAct Multimedia
1121 South Orem Boulevard
Orem • Utah • 84058

I-800-CD-LEARN • FAX 801-221-9942
Act Multimedia is a trademark of the SOFT-ONE Corporation.

DIA



Create customized cards, posters and banners in minutes—it's easy with Greetings™ for Windows!

Greetings for Windows is simple, high-performance software that turns your PC into your own printing press—and it's FREE!*

It's easy to create professional-quality cards, posters and banners that say just what you want them to say. Just select a layout, insert any of more than 60 included graphics, customize your text and print! It's easy enough for the whole family to use!

You'll use Greetings for everything!

Holiday greetings, thank-you cards, welcome-home banners, school projects, business materials, party invitations—your options are virtually limitless!

But what's the catch?

There isn't one. We're giving you Greetings (a \$39 value) FREE to introduce you to our family of more than 50 exciting, high-performance products. So take advantage of this great offer and pick up the phone or mail or fax the attached coupon. Greetings is FREE—all you do is pick up the \$8.95 shipping and handling charges.

For your FREE* copy of Greetings for Windows, Call

@1-800-710-1222@

24 hours a day, 7 days a week or fax the attached order form to 1-319-395-7449 or mail it to the address below.

■ Yes! Send me Greetings for Windows FREE!

*Please add \$8.95 for shipping and handling (\$11.95 for Canadian orders and \$20.95 for aff other orders outside North America). No purchase orders, please. Includes detailed User's Guide and expert technical support.

□ Discover □ American Express

Card # _____Exp. ____

☐ Please just send me your FREE software catalog!



Product Development Center, One Parsons Drive, Hiawatha, IA 52233

Your priority code is 771295C



SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Greetings for Windows requires an IBM® or compatible PC, 4MB RAM, Microsoft® Windows 3.1 or later running in standard or enhanced mode, and 4MB hard drive space. Mouse required. Shipping and handling are non-refundable. Copyright © 1995 Parsons Technology, Inc.

All rights reserved. Greetings is a trademark of Parsons Technology, Inc.

library

ELECTRONIC BOOKS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR EVERYONE



Everything You Want To Know About Sports **Encyclopedia**

Sports Illustrated for Kids and Creative Multimedia (Sports)

You think the Trix rabbit had a problem going after a cereal that was "for kids"? Wait until you start racing your kids to the keyboard to run The Everything You Want To Know About Sports Encyclopedia. Sure, they'll tell you the CD-ROM comes from the publisher of Sports

What did Casey Stengel say? You could look it up!

Illustrated for Kids, and insist that gives them first dibs at the PC, but the dise's deep well of reference material will make it hard for moins and dads to stay on the sidelines.

The research is serious, delivering an up-to-date compendium of sports facts and figures. but the presentation is pure fum. From the start of the dise's flashy, animated open-

ing (a high-speed, three-dimensional parade of athleti-

eism, from track stars elearing hurdles to basketball players living out their hoop dreams), you know this is a firstelass multimedia production.

The program, based on a new

paperbaek book (Bantam Doubleday Dell) of the same name, goes beyond obvious targets such as basketball, baseball and football to introduce viewers to more than 50 sports, including cricket, wind surfing, feneing, snowboarding, skateboarding, rugby, darts and bowling. Most entries include the sport's history, brief bios of its stars, a rundown of the rules, a glossary and an index. The dise includes 700 photos (from black-and-white shots of Jesse Owens and Babe Ruth to full-color snaps of the 1994 Winter Olympics) and more than 30 minutes of video.

Searches are fast and flexible. The keyword "horse," for example, ealls up information on equestrian competitions; typing in "Charlie Hustle" delivers material on Pete Rose, the baseball legend whose aggressive style earned him that niekname.

The disc has games, too. In one, a eartoon quiz-show host serves up 500 trivia questions. But the program's one misstep is a dreadful game involving a robot's search for jigsaw-puzzle pieces that form

> pietures of athletes. Luckily,

you ean easily ignore it. All Hall-of-Famers made an error once in a while; like them, this dise comes up a classy winner most of the time.

\$29.99 (Windows CD-ROM) from Creative Multimedia, (800) 262-7668, (503) 241-4351.

Also reviewed in Home Library

- · America's Civil War: A Nation Divided
- History Through Art
- · Coral Reef! The Vanishing **Undersea World**

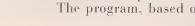
* Reading the stars: Each program reviewed in this section is rated on a scale of 0 to 4 stars based on its ease of use, content, reference tools, sound and graphics, and presentation, in terms of both entertainment value and usefulness.











Searching in vain for a Gettysburg address

America's
Civil War:
A Nation
Divided
Softkey
International
(History)

The producers of this remarkably annoying CD-ROM seem to have taken the "house divided against itself" theme to heart in a way that has nothing to do with the War Between the States: The dise shows how a clumsy user interface can rip asunder a very promising multimedia historical reference.

America's Civil War contains an estimable amount of information: Its text covers 2,300 key events of the cra (battles, political debates, atrocities against civilians), supplemented by 100 maps and 1,200 pictures, many taken by the pioncering pho-





tographer Mathew Brady. A narrator helps you follow the events, and you'll find a dozen film clips of reenacted battle scenes.

Unfortunately, the intractable on-serecu navigation tools force von to jump through so many hoops to get to the good stuff that it's almost impossible to enjoy any of it. Get comfortable with the program's 20page manual-you'll need to read it very carefully. Typically, multivolume CD-ROMs employ a simple search prompt, but this disc-with fewer than 3,000 records—instead adopts an elaborate system of menus and submenus detailing more than 40 categories, each with its own icon. Symbols are supposed to be a shortcut; having so many of them defeats their purpose. It's hard to memorize everything, so you can expect to check the manual frequently to sec what each click will do. In fact, you'd do well to tape that hefty tome to the side of your PC monitor for handy reference.

Unfortunately, that's not what most of us have in mind when we think of "multimedia."

\$59.95 (Windows CD-ROM) from Softkey International, (\$00) 323-\$088, (617) 494-1200.

Kinetic aesthetics

History
Through
Art
ZCI
Publishing
(History, art)

History is more than a collection of names and dates; what makes it fascinating is its record of how ideas evolve. The changes are especially captivating when seen in the work of the world's great artists over time.

History Through Art is a ninc-disc series (each sold separately) beginning with ancient Greece and Rome, moving into the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, Baroque and Enlighten-

> ment eras, and finishing with Romanticism, the Pre-Modern Era and the 20th Century, Throughout, it

relies on well-known images to illustrate not only important historical players and events, but the changing philosophies of Western civilization.

For instance, the meticulous detail of Baroque painting, pictures celebrating the architecture of the Palace of Versailles and clips of the rigorously timed Bach composition "The Musical Offering" beautifully capture the idealized orderliness of the European mind in the Age of Enlightenment.

When the series reaches the 20th Century—a period, says the narrator, when "such orderliness was no longer

perceived to be at the basis of experience"—the changing tenor of the times is reflected in the music, such as a wandering, raucous jazz piece, and on-screen images ranging from Audy Warhol's pop-art soup cans to the great, unsettling images of Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock and Mare Chagall.

Taken together, the discs provide an artful travelogue through time. \$25 per disc (DOS)

CD-ROM, Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from ZCI Publishing, (800) 335-4059, (214)





746-5510.

Diving into the ecological currents

Coral Reef!
The
Vanishing
Undersea
World
Arnowitz
Studios
(Science,

nature,

environment)

Has winter got you down? Maybe it's time to sail away to the Caribbean via this richly illustrated disc, complete with hours of stunning video and photography. But if escapism is the lure, once you're hooked you'll find multimedia with a message: The world's coral reefs—"the ocean's rain forests"—are in jeopardy.

The disc, produced with the New England Aquarium in Boston, contains 134 film clips, 800 photographs and 2½ hours of music and narration. Take a variety of tours that explain various topics subtly

tied together by environmental issues. The "stories" section explores conservation and development from the viewpoints of businesspeople, scientists, locals and others.

This issue-oriented approach makes for a rather humorless disc, but one that has plenty of heart. Few viewers will quickly forget the voice of a local fisherman: "The reef is sick." he says quietly. "The wa-



ters are sick. They're sick from people who think they're God."

\$54.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from Arnowitz Studios, (800) 336-2947, (415) 332-5555.

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.

IN TIMES LIKE THESE, WE SHOULD ALL TIGHTEN OUR BELTS.



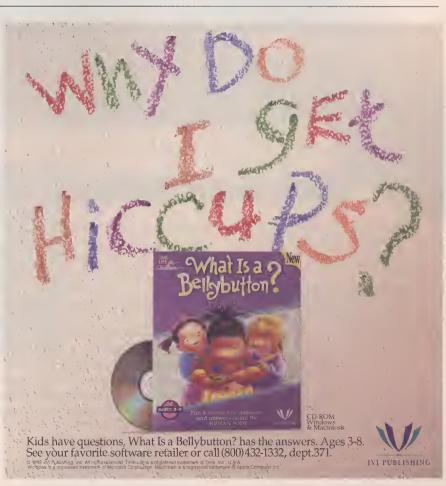
"Virtoe and Larry™" © 1985 U.S. DOT

In this fast-paced, fast-track world, everyone should buckle their safety belts and buckle them firmly. Because you never know when you might need a little extra security.

YOU COULD LEARN A LOT FROM A DUMMY."
BUCKLE YOUR SAFETY BELT.







[11/01/94] # Pawee[SAFEWAY Amount[32.55

It's Simple. Every time you write a check, spend cash, or use your credit card, you just type in who you paid and how much you paid them. Right there, on the spot, so you don't forget.

Memo[DINNER PARTY ENTER

It's Smart. You track every expense in every account by name and category. So you know exactly how much you're spending and who you're spending it with. And with SoftKeys, you get where you want to go, fast.

Choose a SoftKew:

MONEY PHONE MEMO CALEN

LINK TO PC 10/01/94 to 10/31/94 {CHECKING }

It's Powerful. It'll store hundreds of financial transactions and create detailed reports for every category and account. And all the financial information you enter can easily be transferred to

879.50 Balance: RECON

It's Convenient. Want to know how much money you have in your checking account? How about total business expenses for the month? Just reach into your pocket or purse and check your balance.

PHONEBOO NEW EDIT FIND ADDRS

It's Versatile. Everything you need to know on the go is at your fingertips: all your financial records, phone numbers and addresses, electronic memos, a calculator and even a calendar.

It's about the size of a dollar, and it keeps track of every penny.

It's called Pocket Finance™ and that's what it does. It lets you manage every penny that comes out of your pocket by keeping track of where it goes. So you know exactly who got paid, how much, when, where and for what. That makes everything from balancing your

Unless you keep your accountant in

your pocket, you

should have one

of these.

incredibly powerful. Easy to use features like SoftKeys that give you instant access to all your records, and FastFill that remembers your transactions and fills in the details make entering, viewing and reporting a snap. You can reconcile accounts, summarize

than \$500. But you'll never find one—at any price—that's as smart, simple and convenient as the \$99 Pocket Finance. Just try it. What can you lose? After all, we've got a rather famous no excuses, no apologies, no problem 30-day money back guarantee. And you don't do that unless you're selling a

pretty darn good product. One that's perfect for a small business owner, busy professional or someone who simply needs a little help managing their money. In fact, you'll wonder how you ever got along without it.



"New for'95" Quicken FREE!

Say, what's that in your pocket?

For a limited time, buy the \$99 Pocket Finance with its optional \$59 serial link computer cable and get a free copy of the "New for '95" Quicken, all for only \$139." Hey, we don't have to tell you that's a deal. So call-now, today-before you forget where you read this... and where you left last week's receipts.

Pocket Finance. If you're on the go, the best personal financial organizer is the one that goes with you.

someone keep their finances on track, And it's easy

It's a great gift to help

checkbook to filling out tax forms a heck of a lot easier. And because Pocket Finance is so small, a heck of a lot more convenient, too.

All your financial information, all in one place.

Pocket Finance can hold over 800 different financial transactions—in an unlimited number of accounts. You don't dread dragging home a bunch of receipts to enter into your computer later because you enter your transactions as they happen. And by creating your own personal categories, you quickly see how you spend your money.

It's very small. It's also very smart.

A lot of really bright people spent a lot of time thinking Pocket Finance all the way through. It's simple and straightforward, but still

business or personal income and expenses by category, and figure out your total financial picture in less time than it takes to tell you about it. What more could you want? How about computer compatibility.

Pocket Finance is Quicken® Compatible.

Already using a personal finance program like Quicken? No problem. Whenever you want, just use Pocket Finance's optional serial link cable to send all your transactions right to your computer. You don't have to reenter anything because Pocket Finance is totally compatible with every major personal finance program that imports QIF files.

It fits everywhere, including your budget.

Actually, you can find other machines that do what Pocket Finance does... for more

1-800-900-0968, Ext. 700

30-day Money Back Guarantee Order 24 hours a day, 7 days a week Visa and MasterCard accepted

Free Quicken offer extended to February 28, 1995. *Price includes \$10 manufacturer's rebate for current Quicken users. New user price is \$149. All orders shipped 2nd day air, \$8.95, non-refundable. Or send a check to: TouchSoff™ 953 Industrial Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94303

CA sales tax applicable. Other products are registered trademarks of their respective companies.

do-it-yourself

nuts + bolts step: By

Add a hard drive and make room for data



1 Unplug the power cable from your computer and remove the cover. Ground yourself by touching the power supply for a few seconds. Locate an empty bay for the new drive; you'll need one right next to your existing hard drive, which on most PCs looks like a black box.



Remove any plates or panels blocking the drive bay. Store them; you may need them in the future. Multimedia and other whiz-bang programs give your computer extra pizzazz—but they also eat up lots of disk space. Luckily, there's a simple way to give your computer a boost: Add a second hard drive.

The second drive should be the same type as the one already in your machine (a new drive costs about \$200 to \$700, depending on its capacity). Most PCs sold in the past three years use IDE hard drives. Check your computer manual to see which kind of drive you have.

The following steps will make adding a second IDE hard drive a snap. Before beginning the installation, you should be familiar with terms like "jumper," "CMOS settings" and "data cable." Back up all the files on your old drive and read our instructions carefully—after you open your PC, you may find that you need an extra data cable or mounting rails to hold the drive in place. When you buy your new drive, the salesperson at the computer store may ask you if you want a drive installation "kit," which includes a controller card for the drive, plus documentation and cables. Pass on it; you don't need the kit, which typically costs \$100 to \$160.

All you need for this installation is your computer manual and a screwdriver. Then sit back, rev up your new hard drive and get rolling.



Ocate the gray data cable connected to your current hard drive. Note whether the data cable has a black connector available in the middle of the cable. If it does, check to see whether the cable will reach the back of the empty bay for your new drive. If the cable doesn't reach, or if it lacks an available connector, you'll need to buy a new cable. Tell the salesperson at the computer store that you need an IDE data cable for two IDE drives.



4 Your drive may require rails to hold it in place. If your computer didn't include spare rails, you can buy them at your computer store.



5 IDE drives have three settings: "single," "master" and "slave." Set your new IDE drive to the "slave" setting using the jumpers typically found on the back or ends of the hard drive. To locate the jumper configuration that will set the new drive in "slave" mode, check the drive's documentation.





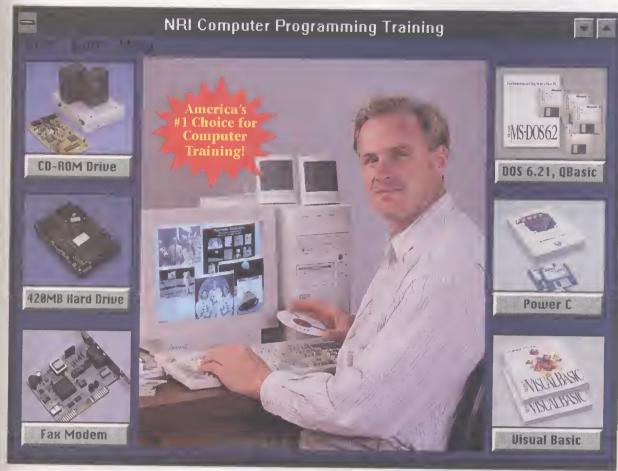
6 Change the jumpers accordingly. In the photograph above, we removed a single jumper with a small pair of tweezers.



Your old drive is probably now set in "single" mode; check its documentation to find out how to change it to "master." If you can't find any such reference in your computer's manual, call the drive manufacturer and ask for the necessary information. Changing the setting will be similar to what you did in Step 6: You'll need to remove your old drive and change one or more jumpers.

Be a Computer Programmer!

Only NRI gives you everything you need for success



Another window of opportunity from NRI

NRI at-home training begins with the basics, then moves step-by-step to cover advanced programming techniques.

You learn to design, code, run, debug, and document programs in QBasic, C, and Visual Basic, the language designed specifically for creating Windows applications.

Best of all, you train with a state-of-theart multimedia computer system, including:

- 486DX2/66 MHz Intel-based computer
- 8 meg RAM
- 420 meg hard drive
- Super VGA color monitor
- CD-ROM drive, 16-bit sound card, and speakers
- Fax/modem for accessing on-line services
- Professional software
- And more!

And all this leading edge hardware and software is yours to train with and keep for all your personal and professional needs.

NEW! Get hands-on experience with a powerful 486DX2/66 MHz computer, Windows 95, and more!

See other side for more highlights

SEND CARD FOR YOUR FREE COLOR CATALOG

OR CALL 1-800-321-4634 EXT. 1082

MA Schools

McGraw-Hill Continuing Education Center 4401 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008



For career courses approved under the GI Bill, check for details

YES! Send me the FREE catalog I've checked and show me how NRI can give me the skills and confidence to earn good money in an exciting new career or business of my own.

- Check one FREE catalog only
- ☐ Computer Programming
- PC Applications Specialist
- Programming in C++
- LAN Specialist

- ☐ Microcomputer Servicing
- Computer-Aided Drafting
- Database Management
- Bookkeeping and Accounting
- Multimedia Specialist

Name (please print) Age
Address

City/State/Zip

Accredited Member, National Home Study Council

5542-0395

Train with a state-of-the-art MPC-2 computer system, software, and more!



Here's what makes your 486DX2 Multimedia PC the ideal tool for programming and personal use:

- ➤ Full IBM compatibility
- High-speed Intel 80486DX2 CPU with 66 MHz clock
- ➤ Pentium Overdrive-ready socket
- > 420 megabyte hard disk drive
- 8 meg RAM installed; 64k ROM
- ➤ 14" Super VGA color monitor with .28mm dot pitch
- Fax modem installed

- ➤ High-density 3.5" floppy disk drive
- > CD-ROM drive, sound card, and speakers
- > Three-button mouse
- MS-DOS 6.21 operating system with QBasic interpreter
- ➤ Windows 95 graphical interface
- Professional compilers for programming in C and Visual Basic

NO POSTAGE

NECESSARY

IF MAILED

IN THE UNITED STATES

of Windows and the rise of exciting new languages such as QBasic, C, and Visual Basic

That's what NRI's team of developers had in mind when they updated the Computer Programming course: training that at once is exciting yet relevant. Only NRI training gives you the exact skills you need to build a top-paying career in a top-growth field. Whether you make a career move or pursue a full- or part-time business of your own, NRI hands-on training can get you started fast.

➤ No previous experience necessary

NRI's step-by-step lessons and hands-on programming projects help you first master the programming design concepts used every day by successful PC programmers. With your experienced NRI instructor on call and ready to help, you go on to learn programming in three of today's hottest languages: QBasic, C, and Visual Basic.

You get first-hand experience with a powerful Intel-based 486DX2/66 MHz computer system with 8 full megabytes of RAM, 420 meg hard drive, 3.5" floppy drive, fax modem, mouse, plus CD-RON drive, sound card, and speakers!

By the time you complete your course, you'll have complete confidence in your abilities and knowledge of programmin methods, languages, and techniques.

And now you can complete your training even faster with NRI's new TeleGrading system that lets you take your tests and get your grades by phone 24 hours a day.

➤ Send today for your FREE catalog

Send today for your free, full-color catalog and start preparing tomorrow for a highpaying career as a computer programmer

Find out how NRI can give you the equipment and experience to get started fast in this exciting profession.

If the card is missing, write to us:

Schools

McGraw-Hill Continuing Education Center 4401 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20008

SEND POSTAGE-PAID CARD FOR YOUR FREE CATALOG!



FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 10008 WASHINGTON, D.C.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



McGraw-Hill Continuing Education Center 4401 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20078-3543

1BM is a registered trademark of the IBM Corporation. Wind QBasic, and Visual Basic are trademarks of Microsoft Corpo

CARD 72-R



Put your old drive back into the computer. Depending on the length of your data cable, you may be able to return it to its original bay, or you may need to move it and your new drive to a different set of bays. Plug the connector located on the end of the data cable into the old drive. You'll notice a red stripe along one edge of the data cable; line it up with the numeral "1" that's stamped on one end of the data-cable connector on the drive.



 Connect an available power cable to your old drive.





10 Fit your new drive into its drive bay and plug the middle connector on the data cable into the back of the new drive. Connect an available power cable to the new drive. Then plug in your computer's main power cable and turn on the power.



When your computer starts up, it may complain about "incorrect CMOS settings." Check your computer's manual for instructions on how to change your CMOS settings. Your computer may also recognize your new hard drive automatically, as ours did; we simply pressed F1 to continue.



P Go to the DOS command line and type fdisk, then press the Enter key. You'll see a menu like the one pictured above. Choose Option 5 to change the "current" fixed disk, or the disk you want fdisk to work on, from your primary (old) drive to the new drive. Press Enter.



Next, you'll see a listing of hard drives and their storage capacities on screen, with your new drive listed second. Note that some computers will refer to your old drive as drive "0" and your new drive as drive "1." Others will refer to the old drive as drive "1" and your new drive as drive "2." Just remember that your new hard drive will always have the higher number, so pick the higher of the two drive numbers, which in our case is Drive 2. Press Enter.

FDISK Options Current fixed disk drive 2 Choose one of the following: 1. Create DOS partition or Logical DOS Drive

Choose "Create DOS Partition" (Option 1) from the fdisk menu and press Enter. Create DOS Partition or Logical DOS Drive

Current fixed di.k drive 2

Choose one of the following.

1. Create Prima: DOS Part t on
2. Create Extended DOS Partition
3. Create Logical DOS ives n e tended DOS Partition

Enter house [1]

Select "Create Primary DOS Partition" from the menu (Option 1) and press Enter.

The fdisk program will ask if it should create the maximum DOS partition on this new drive. Type "Y" for yes and press Enter.

Press Esc to exit FDISK

When fdisk has finished creating a DOS partition on your hard drive, it will prompt you to press Escape to exit the program.

C:\format d:

Run the DOS format command on your new drive by typing format d: at the DOS command prompt. This will format your new drive, which is now drive D. If you have a CD-ROM drive, it may have been defined as drive D; you'll need to change that to drive E. Check the documentation for your CD-ROM drive or computer for information on how to do so. (You may then have to change the drive reference in some of your CD-ROM programs and applications.) Turn off your computer's power, put the cover back in place, and the next time you boot up, you can begin stretching out in your new hard disk space.



The New Way To Buy Software: See 'em. Feel 'em. Iry 'em. Then Buy 'em!

Use 60 Complete Programs Right Now!

Imagine 60 of the hottest programs on your computer. New Multimedia software. Graphics programs. Games. Educational software. The latest in personal productivity boosters and much, much more.

Imagine pitting the top programs from

big manufacturers
like Lotus, Borland
and WordPerfect
against each other
in a head-to-head
shoot-out.

We've hand picked some of the hottest software out there. And some up-n-comer's you never knew existed! And imagine exploring the latest breakthroughs from little-known (but not for long) manufacturers before anyone else.

Stop imagining. There are over 60 full (not demos) programs on this one CD-ROM.

And you can test, torture, and put all of them through their paces right on your own computer. Plus, you'll have complete product information and demos for 140 additional programs at your fingertips.

The cost? Just \$9.95.

Which Ones Will Meet Your Standards?

Compare each program's features. Rate performance. Examine all the bells and whistles. At 2:00 in the afternoon. Or 2:00 in the a.m.

See which games are really the coolest. Which graphics programs are the easiest to use. And what multimedia software you feel is definitely a "must-have".

Instant Electronic Oelivery. No Waiting!

If you want to purchase a program, simply call the toll-free number. It's just

like ordering from a catalog...except you'll be given an unlock code...and you can use your new software as often as you like right away!

Plus, the complete retail package with disks and manual will arrive at your home or office in just a few days.

BONUS: Over \$250 of FREE Software!

Plus, order your TestDrive CD-ROM now and we'll include over \$250 worth of programs FREE. They're yours to keep as our present to you just for trying us out.

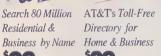
Call 1-800-788-8055 now!



ASK ABOUT A SUBSCRIPTION

System Requirements: Windows 3.1, DOS 5, 6, or 6.2, CD-ROM drive, 4MB of System RAM, 10MB free disk space. TestDrive Corporations's encryption and decryption technologies are Patent Pending. All products and trademarks listed herein are the property of their respective owners. Contact relistrive Corporation, 2933 Sunker Hill Lane, Santa Clara, CA 95054.







AT&T's Toll-Free Directory for

Forget phone directories. Forget

Forget all the things that used to

operators. Forget list brokers.



Reverse Search Canada's White & Yellow Pages

Look Up, Find, Locate,

Download, Map and Mail.

(The only thing it won't do is appear on your phone bill.)



you from locating the person or business you are seeking. Such roadblocks are history. Paying for lists is history. Wondering

how to find or contact any

business, or group of businesses, is history. With Select Phone, the award winning reverse search Phonebook on CD-ROM, you can now look up, find, count, locate, tag, download, call, mail and even map anyone or any group of residential or

business listings in

the blink of an eye. Not



"One of my favorite CD-ROM titles...a great resource and a bargain to boot" Jim Seymour PC MAGAZINE, MAY, 1994



just locally. Or even statewide. Nationally. Yes, now you can access

80 MILLION telephone directory listings using any search criteria vou want. Find anyone. or any business, by



name, part of a name, street address, city, state, zip, area code or business heading/SIC code. Select Phone gives you instant access to the world's most valuable database. Even more important, it gives you the freedom to use this information by allowing you to download one,



While others restrict downloading or charge per name, these offer you unlimited and unrestricted downloading of all 80 million listings

one thousand, or all 80 million listings into your own database, spreadsheet, word processor or contact management software. If vou've ever

dreamed of being able to locate and reach anyone or any business anywhere in the U.S. by phone or mail

(listings come with ZIP+4 appended), you've found it. And now you that you've found it, you can find everyone else!



The Ultimate Utility for CD-ROM™ PROP

YOUR SOURCE FOR SOFTWARE

800-377-2001

818-734-3800 FAX 818-734-3999 do-it-yourself

hobbies + lifestyles

In the darkroom? PCs help you get the picture

Ever flip through your photo albums and wonder why all those pictures looked so much better through your viewfinder? There's Grandma and Grandpa with glowing red eyes that resemble characters one to snap a snowy scene on a sunny day knows how easy it is to fool a light meter.

So, while your memories may be perfect, your ability to capture them on film needs help. What's a frustrated shutterbug to do? Point your camera at your PC and click your mouse on a computerized photo workshop.

Photography software fits neatly with, if not into, any camera bag. After all, even if our lens work doesn't always meet our expectations, that hasn't stopped most of us from trying to get it right. In an average year, Americans shoot nearly 700 million







in a Stephen King novel; overexposed landscapes from your Hawaiian vacation; and the out-of-focus highlights of your daughter celebrating her soccer team's championship.

Your pictures come back too light one time, too dark the next; some shots are poorly composed, others cut off the subject's head. Even the popular, fully automatic point-and-shoot cameras don't guarantee flawless prints; anyone who has ever used

A sense of
color and
composition
doesn't come
in a flash;
photography
software
helps you
focus your

skills.

rolls of film, then spend \$5.5 billion to have them developed, according to the Photo Marketing Association, in Jackson, Mich. We throw even more money at cameras, lenses, tripods and other photographers' accessories. And yet, many of us still can't tell an f-stop from a truck stop and shudder at the thought of picking the right shutter speed.

Whether you're a rank amateur or picture yourself as Ansel Adams' as-yet-undiscovered protégé, photography software can help you polish your lensing skills. As an alternative to expensive photography classes, these packages allow you to learn at your own pace. Best of all, they let you experiment with different techniques right on screen.

How does photography software improve your technique? We picked two CD-ROMs that offer on-screen instruction from a professional photographer to see how well they make their points. And, with the soaring popularity of home video cameras—particularly among parents—we look at a package that aims to



Show and tell: Understanding Exposure's audio explains how shots took root.

show you how to be a better cinematographer, too.

Valuable 'Exposure'

Understanding Exposure, based on a book by award-winning photographer Bryan Peterson, scores with its easy-to-use design. The screens go light on the button bars and icons that clutter many other programs. Here, you simply click on the Introduction box in the opening screen to reach any of four main sections: Interactive Theater, Workshops, PhotoLab and Gallery.

In the Interactive Theater, you'll find three in-depth lessons—Photographic Triangle (explaining how aperture, shutter speed and film speed relate to each other), Quality of Light and Special Techniques. Workshops revisits much of the material in Interactive Theater, but here the user may shorten the lessons and skip around the material more easily.

It helps to have at least a working knowledge of photography basics before diving into Understanding Exposure's lessons, which feature short, easy-to-read blocks of text and photo illustrations. Follow the program's advice on choosing the best settings for good exposure, or handling special situations such as extremely low light or glare from snow-covered surfaces, and you'll be on your way to photo-album bliss.

Take your inspiration from the beautiful photographs that decorate nearly every screen—more than 500 pictures in all. Forward, Back and Quit buttons let you navigate the program, and a Go To box takes you to the main menu. Click on the small question-mark button by each photo to find out what f-stop, shutter speed and film speed were used to produce the image.

After you've completed either Interactive Theater or Workshops, go to the program's PhotoLab section and experiment with images at various camera settings. Try a slow shutter speed on a picture of a Ferris wheel, for example, and watch the wheel become a blur of motion; at a faster shutter speed, every detail becomes crystal-clear.

The pictures in the Gallery, taken from Peterson's portfolio, appear in four categorics: Scenery, People, Closeups, Motion and Action, and Morc Scenery. Again, just click on the question button to see the settings Peterson used for each shot.

Understanding Exposure's one drawback is its limited use of multimedia; it contains just one

brief vidco clip of Pcterson welcoming you to the program. It makes somewhat better use of sound: Click on the speaker button that pops up on selected photos and you'll hear background information about the picture and, sometimes, a helpful hint. For instance, Peterson explains that he shot a seemingly endless field of tulips in the Netherlands (see screen at lcft) on his knees: "Be sure to adjust your point-of-view by getting down low or up high," he counsels. "The new perspective clearly adds possibilities.

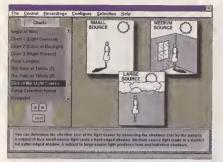
'Easy' is hard on the eyes

For a program geared to a visual subject, Photography Made Easy is surprisingly hard to look at. The so-called "VCR Interface" at the bottom of the screen is a messy array of buttons that stop, play, fast-forward and rewind the program, among other things, plus boxes that lct you choose between Classroom and Freeform modes (similar to Understanding Exposure's Interactive Theater and Workshops). Worse, the program superimposes the active window on a distracting background photo, such as a water scene or a close-up of fcrn leaves.

Unlike Understanding Exposure, however, this program uses video and sound extensively. The lessons appear almost exclusively in full-motion video (about 65 clips in all) featuring your instructor, professional photographer Brian D. Ratty. A quiz follows each segment in Classroom Mode (Hint: The odds are with you if you pick



Photography Made Easy clutters its screeus.



Here's a light moment from 'Easy.'

"all of the above"), and Freeform Mode lets you skip from lesson to lesson. Topics range from setting apertures to loading film to the origin of the word "photography." Unfortunately, you'll see fewer than 20 sample photos, which offer little inspiration.

Novice shutterbugs will probably feel most comfortable with Photography Made Easy; more advanced students must wade through a lot of simplistic material, such as Ratty's lecture on why people take pictures, to find the occasionally expert information contained here.

Some program glitches are also bound to annoy detail-oriented users. For instance, if you're eager to learn why your pictures are blurry, you're in luck: It's the first topic listed in the glossary. Otherwise, you might have had a tough time finding it, since "blurred pictures" is misspelled as "blured pictures."

One perplexing feature allows you to record video segments and play them back later. But you can easily go to any segment at will, so it's hard to understand the point of this feature. If you do use it, though, at least you won't be saving a memory-hogging video file on your hard drive; the program stores only the "pointers" that quickly retrieve the disc segments you want.

The software's Equipment Notes feature makes a bit more

Take two images and call us when you're morphing

Ever wonder how actor Jim Carrey transformed into that pop-eyed, greenfaced ssssmokin' creature in The Mask? Or how Tinseltown created a man out of molten metal in Terminator 2? The technique used in both films, called morphing, relies on a type

of software you can use on your own computer.

own computer.

MetaMorph
3-D (\$49.95 from
Villa Crespo Software, 800-5213963, 708-4330500) is one of
several inexpensive morphing
programs avail-

able to consumers. The Windows CD-ROM includes more than 200 images to play with, but you can also use your own pictures from a photo CD or imported by a scanner. (Some professional-quality graphics programs, such as CorelDraw 5, also have

morphing capabilities—but using a \$700 software package for morphing is like using a diamondedged cutting tool to open a can of tuna.)

How does morphing's magic happen? No matter which program you use, the basic process works like this:

- Pick two images; for the best results, choose photos that are roughly the same size and were snapped from the same angle (say, two head-on shots or two profiles). You can use drawings, too. Images of animals, people, even inanimate objects will all work.
- Let's say you decide on two head shots: one of a girl and another of a kitten. The next step is to apply a matrix, a complex grid of curved lines that allows the computer to compare the two faces feature by feature. For instance, the point at which

two lines intersect on the girl's right eye corresponds with the intersection of two lines on the kitten's right eye. Meta-Morph 3-D has built-in matrices that work with the software's image library, but if you're using your own photos, you'll have to build your own matrix (don't worry—it's easier than you think).

- Decide how many frames you want to use (the greater the number of frames, the smoother the transformation).
- Now, begin the morphing process. The two images will disappear, replaced by a single image of the girl. The transformation begins as your computer rapidly compares each set of points and adjusts the shape and color of her face, pixel-by-pixel, frame-by-frame, reshaping it before your eyes until you're looking at the kitten. —S.J.

sense. It records your camera's brand, model and serial number, plus information on your lenses and accessories. If your equipment is damaged, lost or stolen, the list makes a handy resource for a police report or insurance claim.

Let's go to the 'Video'

Shoot Video Like a Pro probably won't turn you into an Oscar winner. but it will help you capture the sights and sounds of your son's birthday party or your parents' anniversary dinner.

The software's main attraction is a "virtual camera" that lets you manipulate various light sources on screen—such as sunshine, tung-



Simple icons let you navigate Shoot Video Like a Pro.

sten lamps and fluorescent fixtures—to see how each combination casts different colors on your subject. You can vary the number and placement of light sources to produce a range of moods, from a shadowy. "sensuous" atmosphere to a brightly lit "corporate" look. Or, you can test basic techniques, such as panning and zooming, on screen. Click on the Ask the Probutton for an evaluation of your efforts—if lighting or focus is off, you'll get an improvement tip.

Shoot Video Like a Pro is refreshingly easy to use. From the opening menu, just click on one of four TV-screen icous: Camera, Composing, Lighting or Sound. You can choose from several topics in each section, and a button bar at the bottom of each screen launches basic functions. To reveal a complete table of contents, click on the map symbol; to define an unfamiliar term, choose the open-book

icon; to check the credentials of the program's creators, click on the credits box. Mini-icons for the four main sections quickly steer you around the program.

Instruction relies on text, diagrams and a few video clips. In the Sound section, a wedding video illustrates how to boost a faint audio source by moving an external microphone progressively closer to the happy couple. An

accompanying diagram shows the placement of the mike, and you'll

hear the difference through your computer's speakers.

For advice from the pros, click on the Trade Secrets button. Most of the tips are practical and valuable. The lighting expert even tells you how to make your own lights and reflectors for a home studio.

Of course, no software program guarantees perfection. If you want to salvage your

shakier shots, consider a photo-editing program. To edit your photos. you'll first need to scan them into



A 'virtual camera' helps amateurs see the light.

your PC or have your film processor put them on a photo CD. (For more on photo editing, see "Photo CD Opportunities" in the November 199+ issue of *HomePC*.) Then, you might choose a program such as Picture Window, which offers pull-down menus and easy-to-use functions. The Transformation menu. for instance, contains "Geometry," which resizes photos; "Sharpen," which adjusts image sharpness; and "Color," which touches up the depth and balance of almost every shade in the rainbow.

So, with your technique in focus, get your camera and go to town—and maybe buy a few extra photo albums while you're there.

Sharlene Johnson is a writer based in Fort Collius, Colo.

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the photography workshop and editing software mentioned in this article.

Photography Made Easy

Villa Crespo Software, *(800) 521-3963*, *(708) 433-0500* \$49.95 (Windows CD-ROM)

Picture Window

Digital Light & Color, (800) 577-7090, (617) 497-9027 \$199 (Windows)

Shoot Video Like a Pro

Zelos Digital Learning, (\$00) 3+5-6777, (415) 755-0566 \$49.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM)

Understanding Exposure

Diamar Interactive, (800) 234-2627, (206) 340-5975 \$59.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) \$79.95 with book (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.

The Only Thing That Matters More Than What They Think—



America Online: A big winner on fundamentals like e-mail, America Online was also rated "exceptionally easy" when it came to finding and downloading files. ****



SCORECARD	CORECARD AMERICA ONLINE CROSSES THE FINISH LINE FIRST					
Factor	America Online	CompuServe	Prodigy			
1. Exchanging E-Mail Weighing Factor: 35%	*** * Easy to navigate, attach files, and go.	** * Step-by-Step instructions, but too cryptic.	** Road closed to other online services without add-on software,			
2. Downloading Files Weighing Factor: 20%	*** Straightforward and user-friendly.	***½ Lots of files; hard to find among forums.	**½ Needs better search capabilities.			
3. Accessing Data Weighing Factor: 20%	**** Top choice for up-to-date information.	*** Unmatched depth of information.	** * Testers rated these sections highly intuitive.			
4. Accessing the Internet Weighing Factor: 15%	**½ The only one with true Internet access.	*½ No Internet info, and even sending mail is tricky.	*½ Only Internet info is a glossary and a BBS.			
5. Working Offline Weighing Factor: 10%	**** Easy to compose mail offline,	** * Need Navigator software to work offline.	*½ No can do without new software.			
Verdict 100%	*** So Easy, it's hard to believe you're online.	*** Database depth, but not always easy to use.	** Rock-solid for data, but that's it.			
***** Excellent **** Good *** Acceptable ** Poor * Unacceptable						

PC Computing Magazine, September 1994

Is What You Think.

Featuring Home PC Online!

To Find Out, Try America Online For 10 Hours — FREE!

See for yourself why PC Computing Magazine named America Online the "most usable" online service. Send us the ttached reply card and you'll get 0 hours online – absolutely free.

1-800-827-6364

Preferred Customer #10859.



YES! I'D LIKE TO TRY AMERICA ONLINE - FREE.

Send me the free software and trial membership. I understand there's no risk—if I'm not completely satisfied, I may cancel without further obligation.

NAME

COMPANY/DEPT./APT. NO.

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

()

HOME PHONE

SELECT DISK TYPE AND SIZE -

Windows*: 3.5

DOS: 3.5

Macintosh®: 3.5

□ 5.25

☐ High Density

☐ Low Density

* To use America Online for Windows, you must have a 386 PC or higher, 4 MB of RAM, a VGA monitor (256 color support recommended), a mouse, a modem, and a working copy of Windows 3.1.

Use of America Online requires a major credit card or checking account. Limit one free trial per household. America Online is registered service mark of America Online, Inc. Other names are service marks or trademarks of their respective owners.

Try The "Most Usable," Most Exciting Online Service – Free For 10 Hours!



PC Computing Magazine just named America Online the "most usable" online service. But as much as we appreciate what they say, what we're really interested in is what you say. So,

we'd like you to try America Online absolutely free-for 10 hours! Here's what PCC said about us.



"Exchanging E-Mail between online services and the outside world is key. America Online took top honors for ease of communications-both within

the service and to external addresses." "Simplicity, power and logic were all cited by testers as among America Online's strengths when it came to mail handling. Our usability testers noted particularly how easy it was to send attachments and files with messages." - PC Computing, September 1994



Downloading Files from America Online's computer to yours. "Graphics and data files are the meat and potatoes of online access. Our testers deemed America

Online the winner here, thanks to the ease with which they could find what they wanted." "Our testers cited America Online's excellent search tools and point-andclick access." - PC Computing, September 1994

Staying Informed. "Why wait until day's end for news, weather and stock reports? Online data is updated as frequently as every 15 minutes-and America Online takes the cake for delivering information sweetly and



succinctly." "...you can [also] get text of everything from The New York Times and Chicago Tribune to Atlantic Monthly, New Republic and Wired." - PC Computing, September 1994



NO POSTAGE

NECESSARY

Working Offline. "A majority of our users didn't know working offline was possible, so they just logged on and started working. If you're using America Online you can write as many messages as you

need to before you log on and ship them off -a big money saver." - PC Computing, September 1994

Easy To Use. Easier to try. Get your free 10-hour trial today! We'd like to know what you think. We'll send



you software

and let you try it, absolutely free. You'll be impressed by everything you can do with America Online and how easily you can

Complete and mail the card or



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

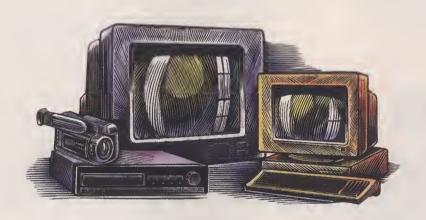
FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 9096 VIENNA, VA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



8619 Westwood Center Drive Vienna, VA 22182-9806

YOU'D BE SURPRISED AT HOW LITTLE IT TAKES TO CREATE PROFESSIONAL-LOOKING VIDEOS.



How little trouble. How little time. How little investment.

All you need is your PC, a video source (camcorders, VCRs, and laser discs work great) or PC graphics, and the very affordable Studio Magic™ Personal Video Studio for Windows®. With that, you have everything that's required to create exciting videos and multimedia shows with stunning special effects and titles. Personal Video Studio is so easy to use that within minutes, you'll have output ready for video tape or a television set.

No additional storage space necessary.

Personal Video Studio enhances video in real-time. So there's no need to add costly hard disk storage space to your computer. Video simply passes through your computer where it is enhanced and then out to video tape or a TV-without losing a generation in quality.

Multimedia action is waiting to happen.

With a sound card, multimedia PC or upgrade kit, you'll be able to experience true multimedia performance. Select music and sound effects from your favorite CDs and add them to vacation and home videos. Pump up your footage with Personal Video Studio's dozens of special effects—or create your own. You can even time sequence multiple sound sources and graphics to your video for dramatic multimedia presentations and in-house training videos. In fact, if it's in

your computer, it can be added to your video.



MAGIO

Start making your own videos today.

Personal Video Studio is available for \$499.95 MSRP and comes with its own easy-to-follow installation and instructional video, so you can get started quickly and easily. For more information, or for the name of the dealer nearest you, call 408-378-3838 or 1-800-314-MAGIC.

Here's a sampling of what you can do with Personal Video Studio.



Overlay graphics or animations for stunning videos and multimedia presentations.



Add titles using fonts and colors on your computer.



Choose from dozens of special effects, or create your own.



Create transitions and wipes like the professionals.



Boost video intrigue with music and sound effects.



Tenth Annual Computer Press Awards 1994

CPA READER-CHOSEN AWARDS BALLOT

The Computer Press Awards, co-sponsored by 3M Data Storage Products and the Computer Press Association (CPA), honors top journalists who excel in their coverage of information technology. As the oldest and most coveted honor of its kind, the Awards provide a forum for technology journalists to be recognized by their peers.





SEND OR FAX ENTRIES TO COMPUTER PRESS AWARDS, 2 FLOYD DRIVE, MOUNT ARLINGTON, NJ 07856, FAX (201) 663-5140. NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15, 1995.

BEST INSTRUCTIONAL OR EDUCATIONAL ARTICLE OR SERIES

Publication/Broadcast:
Appearance Date:

Article or Series Name:Author/Host:
BEST FEATURE OR REVIEW
Publication/Broadcast: Appearance Date: Article or Series Name: Author/Host:
FAVORITE PUBLICATION
REMEMBER! YOU CAN VOTE FOR A TELEVISION PROGRAM, RADIO SHOW, OR ON-LINE SERVICE, TOO. Publication/Broadcast: Appearance Date: Article or Series Name:
Author/Host:
PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS. Name/Title: Company: Address: City/State/Zip: Phone (Voice): Phone (Fax): Age: Sex: M
SPECIAL OFFER! Become a CPA Associate Member. Join now for only \$30, and save over 50% (Regular membership fee is \$75)! Associate Members receive the CPA Network News, a CPA membership card and member directory, plus access to the CPA's BBS.
Yes! Sign me up as a CPA Associate Member for only \$30.
MC/Visa Number
OR enclose a check made out to Computer Press Association

personal productivity

financial adviser

TAKING CARE OF HOUSEHOLD BUSINESS

Unless you're very lucky or a Zen master, you probably worry about money. Nagging financial questions echo in your head: Am I spending

version of Quicken Deluxe 4 for Windows or Managing Your Money; and dedicated financial-advice software, such as the Charles J. Givens Money Guide and Jonathan Pond's Personal Financial Planner.

You may know multimillionaire

software in 1983 to the present.

The strategies Givens and Pond outline in their respective books form the basis of some of the advice included in Money Guide and Personal Financial Planner. But the software format enables you to lo-

cate the specific information you need much more

quickly than you could using a book index. And the programs' worksheets do the math for you when, for example, you want to calculate the long-term savings of refinancing your mortgage against the short-

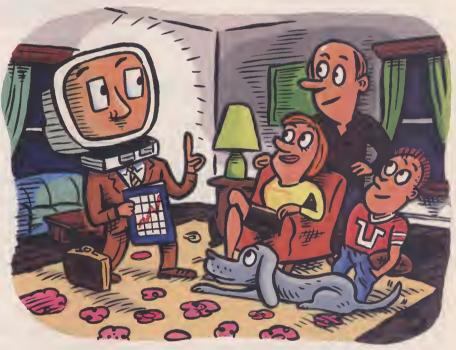
In four packages, experts' advice is on the money

too much of my salary? Do my investments make sense? Can I afford my kids' college bills? Will I be able to retire comfortably? Will my family be financially secure no matter what happens to me?

These are tough questions, and the answers may be elusive for breadwinners who aren't expert in finance. But even if you're not an economics whiz, now you can consult one under your own roof; a raft of financial programs featur-

ing the sage advice of financial professionals lets you gather the information you need to make sound decisions about your money. With just a few clicks of your mouse, you can call up quizzes or worksheets that help you assess your financial picture or create a budget, read up on ways to minimize your tax bill, ask how IRA rollover rules work or figure out how much you should spend on insurance or save for retirement.

These programs fall into two main categories: personal finance managers, such as the CD-ROM Givens from his best-selling book Wealth Without Risk, and Pond from his numerous books of financial advice. The other programs also feature financial heavy-hitters: Marshall Loeb, editor-at-large for



Fortune magazine and author of the annual Marshall Loeb's Money Guide, co-hosts Quicken's financial advice section with Jane Bryant Quinn, columnist for Newsweek and author of Making the Most of Your Money. And Managing Your Money has featured some input from Andrew Tobias, author of The Only Investment Guide You'll Ever Need, from the first version of the

term closing costs. Givens' and Pond's packages also feature customized financial advice. Quicken and Managing Your Money have a different advantage: After you get the information you need, you can often easily jump to another feature in the program and put what you've just learned into practice.

All the experts except Tobias appear in video clips in the CD-

by jo-ann johnston and iennifer zaino

ROM programs. (Managing Your Money comes only in a Windows floppy disk format; Money Guide and Personal Financial Planner are also available in Windows floppy disk versions without video.) In most of the clips, the experts appear simply as "talking heads," but Money Guide also includes more active segments—for instance, clips of a man writing out his financial wish list in a park.

Don't expect the money mavens to wow you with a surefire way to rake in untold millions. Rather, they offer sensible advice about managing your money responsibly. They all teach their lessons well, and they effectively hammer home the most important point of all: The ultimate goal is to learn enough to become your own financial expert.

Managing Your Money

Andrew Tobias's commentary in Managing Your Money's text-only financial adviser is solid (and free if you're already using the software to balance your checkbook or track your savings). You reach the adviser from the program's main menu; the advice nicely balances general information about finances with tips on how to use Managing Your Money to apply Tobias's advice. Search for "about escrows," for example, and you'll get both a summary of what escrows are and helpful hints on how you can use the program to set

up a mortgage escrow account. Other tips, such as how to buy bonds, offer specific information to help you decide if the strategy is right for you.

Tobias sprinkles his advice with useful resources (including phone numbers) for more information on mutual funds, auto insurance, deep-discount stockbrokers and more. Managing Your Money's finan-

cial adviser is somewhat more thorough than Quicken's Ask the Experts feature (see below), and it's as easily accessible, encouraging users to look for financial advice as they handle regular money management.

Quicken Deluxe 4 for Windows CD-ROM

The CD-ROM version of Quicken uses its Ask the Experts feature to



Quicken's Quinn and Loeb don't always see eye to eye.

Terms of investment: a brief glossary of financial phrases

Can't tell the difference between a Keogh and a SEP? Confused when financially savvy friends tell you to diversify? These definitions from Jonathan Pond's Personal Financial Planner will help you get a leg up on the lingo.

401(k) plan: Employees contribute pretax dollars to a company-sponsored program; the money is invested in stocks, bonds or money market accounts.

Cash-equivalent investment: A short-term, interest-earning investment such as a Treasury bill or money market fund. Returns are fairly reliable and typically can be converted into cash on short notice.

Diversification: Investing in several different types of stocks and bonds. This strategy helps counteract a decline in any one type of investment.

Keogh plan: An arrangement in which the owner of an unincorporated business provides tax-deferred retirement benefits to all eligible employees—including the owner.

No-load mutual fund: Investors in this type of mutual fund can avoid paying a broker's fee by purchasing their shares

directly from the mutualfund companies.

Renewable-term life insurance: This type of policy covers you for a fixed period or until you reach a specified age. (Term life insurance provides death protection only.) In most cases, you can renew the policy each year without a medical examination.

Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) plan: A retirement savings plan for self-employed people. A SEP, unlike a Keogh, does not have a separate pension plan; contributions are deposited into an individual retirement account (IRA).

deliver sound financial advice that's well integrated with the program's money management tools, such as Quicken's estimates of the benefits of various home or

auto loan options.

Jane Bryant Quinn and Marshall Loeb dispense advice in five categories: Financial Basics (saving, borrowing and so on), Long Term Goals (financing your retirement and the kids' college education), Home Ownership. Investments and Taxes. You can click on questions that highlight major financial concerns for each topic (such as "How do I develop a plan for savings?"), and the answers are concise and explicit. For example, Loeb offers an excellent 90-second explanation of mutual funds. A narrator then directs you to Quicken's mutualfund register to see how such funds are currently performing.

While this quick question-andanswer format makes it easy to digest the program's advice, it precludes in-depth study of any single topic. And, despite the tie-in to the main program, it doesn't use the data you've entered into your own Quicken accounts to make recommendations about how much money to put into mutual funds and how much to keep as cash.

One of the best things about Ask the Experts is that Quinn and Loeb occasionally agree to disagree. There's no better way to realize the importance of financial self-reliance than to see that even the mayens don't have magical access to all the right answers.

Charles J. Givens Money Guide

You know you haven't done a perfect job managing your finances, but you're not exactly sure how to make it better. Charles J. Givens wants to help. He's going to tell you exactly how financial plans often go awry, warn you about some costly errors you could make in the future and explain ways you can avoid them. In the invaluable Ten Biggest Money Mistakes section, Givens comes on screen to tell you about common mistakes people make when buying a home. car or insurance, filling out a W-4 form and more (the floppy disk

version uses text instead of video clips).

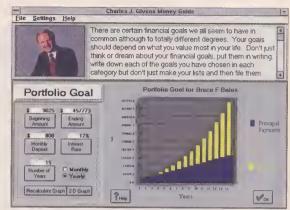
For example, Givens details the pitfalls of buying credit-life or disability insurance for a loan. The deals sound good—credit-life pays the loan if yon die, and disability insurance pays if you can't work. But there's a catch, and it's a big one—you'll overpay by up to \$00 percent for the insurance you get when you could have

bought annually renewable term life insurance for the same benefit. You can then call up a sobering worksheet to calculate how much you're spending on credit-life and disabili-

ty insurance each year.

After the shock wears off, you can hop into the Ask Charles Givens section by simply clicking on a button. Here, you can get quick answers to some common financial head-scratchers as well as more specialized questions. Parents whose children work as models, for example, may want to know if their child can file a tax return as the head of the household. If you're eager to expand your financial knowledge, this section can help.

The program's Wealth Mauagement feature lets you jot down your financial dreams and goals, learn



Givens' program tries to help you face the future.

about record-keeping and analyze your fiscal picture. It's useful, but not as well integrated with the rest of the program as it could be. Nevertheless, even if you skip this part, your money has been well spent.

Jonathan Pond's Personal Financial Planner

If you're seeking a detailed plan for managing your finances, Jonathan Pond's Personal Financial Planner fits the bill. The software blends extensive financial information with quizzes, checklists, worksheets, personalized strategies and action plans. In the CD-ROM, video clips highlight and augment tips pulled from the accompanying text.

The program is organized into chapters on topics such as taking stock of your financial situation,

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the financialplanning software mentioned in this article.

Charles J. Givens Money Guide

Friendly Software, (500) 965-4654, (419) 565-6090 \$30 direct from company, \$49.95 retail (Windows) \$35 direct from company, \$59.95 retail (Windows CD-ROM)

Jonathan Pond's Personal Financial Planner

Tertigo Development, (800) 942-2848, (617) 225-2065 \$39.95 (Windows) \$49.95 (Windows CD-ROM)

Managing Your Money

Block Financial Software, (\$00) 537-9993, (203) 255-1441 \$39.95 (Windows)

Quicken Deluxe 4 for Windows CD-ROM

Intuit, (800) 624-8742, (415) 322-0573 \$59.95 (Windows CD-ROM)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.



Pond's Planner explains each topic in detail.

reducing personal risk with insurance and profiting from wise investments. The answers you supply to the quiz questions deliver a customized financial strategy. The first quiz, for example, grills you about everything from your short-and long-term financial goals to whether you'll need to collect Social Security benefits before age 65. Your score determines the order in which Pond suggests you read the chapters; they might be

shuffled so that if, say, you indicate you're comfortable with tax regulations and tax-advantaged investing, you won't have to read the chapter on minimizing taxes until the very end of the session.

The advice isn't always finely tuned to your particular situation—for example, Pond recommends that you pay off your monthly credit-card balance, whether it's \$20 or \$2.000. But in other cases,

his tips are splendidly specific—he'll tell you, for instance, that your life or disability insurance coverage doesn't really meet your needs, and he'll spell out the amount of additional insurance you need.

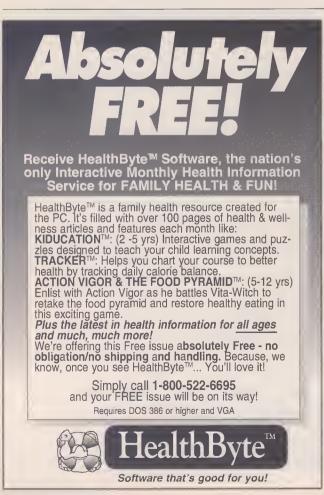
The program, which includes a financial glossary (see sidebar on page 200), ends with a Smart Planner Report that summarizes your financial goals, why they're important and how to reach them. It's a good idea to print out the re-

port and keep it on hand as you plan a financial strategy.

In fact, the best way to build a solid financial plan may be to choose more than one of these programs. At the very least, personal financial management software such as Quicken and Managing Your Money can help you track your spending and savings, even if the expert advice they offer isn't always specific enough for your needs.

In that case, it may be worth-while to spend a few extra dollars to add a dedicated financial adviser such as Money Guide or Personal Financial Planner to your software collection. The detailed information in these packages can be a wise investment to help you and your family live comfortably now and in the coming years. Even more important, you can finally put an end to those nagging financial questions echoing in your head. •

Jo-Ann Johnston is a personal finance and business writer based in Turners Falls, Mass.





personal productivity

working at home

TOOLS FOR GETTING THE JOB DONE

lt's 11 p.m., and Michael is scrambling to finish his department's quarterly sales report, due first thing in the morning, when he re-

traveling businessperson who wants to be prepared for any emergency, or anyone else who works from multiple locations.

Rob Cosgrove, 39, an engineer in Memphis, Tenn., shuttles between his home and downtown ofis considered the "host" computer.

Most remote software gives you two connection options. With the "remote access" method, you can retrieve files from a faraway computer, work on them and then send them back. With "remote control"

you actually operate the distant comput-

===

er—running its programs or using its printer, CD-ROM drives and more—from the screen in front of

Go to the office PC? No, thanks, I'll use it from here

alizes he left a vital file at the office—a one-hour drive away.

Grace is on deadline for a crucial presentation. When she arrives at the office, she discovers that she copied her presentation file onto a corrupted floppy disk. Her only backup eopy is at home.

On a business trip to build his client base, Kcn tries to update a contract, only to discover it was created with software that isn't loaded on his laptop computer.

If you think this trio can do nothing but panic, think again. With a remote software package, all these predicaments would be solved easily. Remote software lets two computers connected by phone lines access each other's data, copy the other's files and even run one another's programs. That's good news if you're a parttime telecommuter who's tired of loading up floppy disks like a pack rat every time you hit the road, a

fiees. "I like keeping my key files on the PCs at home, where the data is safe," he says. When he is working downtown and needs that information, Rob simply "phones home" using the Norton peAnywhere remote program.

To set up a remote system, each of the computers you want to link together must be connected to a modem and have a copy of the remote software installed on its hard drive. Now for some tricky yet vital semantics: Typically, remote

you. Either way, it's best to use modems that transfer data at 14,400 bits per second (bps) or faster, although slower modems will work, too.

The remote access feature works best when you need to fetch small or mediumsized files from a distant computer to work with at your current location. Dial in to the faraway computer to get the file, end the modem connection and make your changes. Then reconnect the modem to send back the revised file. By ending the modem connection, you free your phone line and keep your telephone charges down. Remote packages such as pcAnywhere, LapLink for Windows and Reach-Out Remote Control compare your revised file with the previous ver-

sion on the computer it came from

and transmit only the changes in-

stead of the entire document.

Even multi-megabyte files can be



programs refer to the machine that you're actually sitting in front of as the "remote" computer. The distant system you're connecting to transmitted in just a few minutes.

Most remote access modes use a split-screen design that makes it a breeze to exchange files. The two computers' disk and file directories or folders appear side by side on the screen of the computer you're at. To transfer a file, just highlight it with your mouse or select it using the cursor keys, then simply move the file from one side of the screen to the other.

Here, there & everywhere

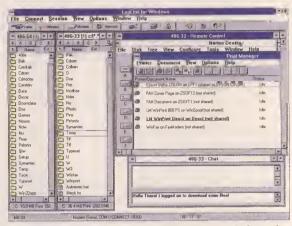
If files are too large to send over phone wires easily-say, a document that takes more than 10 minutes to transfer, such as a detailed color sales presentation—remote control makes a great alternative. Dial into the faraway computer and run the program that created the file. On your screen, you'll see the software running on the other computer. When you use remote control, the other computer opens and reads the file much more quickly than it can send it to you. Even better, your changes will be recorded instantly on the computer where the file resides. You will have to leave your modem connected the entire time,

WORKING

however, so don't be shocked by the numbers in front of the decimal point on your phone bill.

Even if a program isn't loaded on the computer you're working at, you can get to it if it's installed on a computer linked to yours by using remote control. Suppose that you're on a business trip; just dial into the computer back at your home office, lanuch vour CD-ROM telephone directory and browse through it to check for potential clients in the area. It doesn't matter if the computer you're using on the road has a CD-ROM drive or not.

Similarly, remote control lets you take advantage of other devices attached to a distant computer, such as a tape drive or a printer. For instance, you can compose a busi-



LapLink lists two computers' contents side by side.



Remote Access take bytes from a distant Mac.

Peek performance: how technicians see and fix PCs from afar

Just as remote software lets you use your faraway programs and data, many PC hardware and software manufacturers' support technicians use

===

similar technology to fix PC problems from a distance. Hardware conflicts,

glitches that pop up after you install a hot new game for the kids and other PC problems can be diagnosed by PC troubleshooters who dial in to take a look.

Gateway Computers

and DiagSoft give their customers the option of having technicians examine their systems from a distance. Gateway computers and DiagSoft QA/Plus for Windows diagnostic utility (\$99.95, 800-342-4763) both include a program called CoSession. When a problem crops up that stumps you, vou can run the manufacturer's diagnostic programs, which perform a range of evaluation tests. CoSession then sends the results, along with the contents of important setup files such as your config.sys file, by modem to the company's technicians. The troubleshooters study the information, then send you their suggestions by phone, fax, electronic mail or even through the remote program itself.

For more challenging problems, the technical support staff can even use the remote software to take control of your computer and experiment with different ways to solve the problem. It's the next best thing to having a technician looking over your shoulder. —D.B.

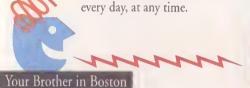
Introduce Your Family to the World of ImagiNation!

Discover a new world!

Join the network that's bringing families together. So what if your brother lives in Boston, your

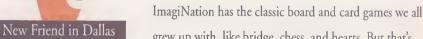
grandmother's in Seattle and your cousin is two states away?

Now, you can really connect with them



The ImagiNation Network offers a unique entertainment experience. Play dozens of games, and chat in real time with real friends and real family across town or clear across the country.





grew up with, like bridge, chess, and hearts. But that's only the beginning. Spend time with a noted actor or writer in one of our regular forums. (It's your chance to

Entertainment, fun and friends...



ask that burning question the talk show host forgot.) Attend classes at our University. Meet new friends you didn't know you had when

you share your interests and hobbies.

Special Introductory Offer...

Come join us for a free tour of the community that thousands of families throughout the country like to call home.

Neighborhood Friend

Sign me up for 5 FREE HOURS on the ImagiNation Network.

Get 5 FREE hours on The ImagiNation Network! Mail this card or fax it to 209-642-0885.

NAME			
ADDRESS			
CITY	ST	ZIP	

PHONE (_____) (In case we have a question about your order)

MEDIA (check one):

CD-ROM 3.5" diskettes

YOUR SIGNATURE

Offer Source Code: 857. Offer expires 3/31/95. Offer valid to new members only.

© 1994 The ImagiNation Network. All rights reserved. Limit one free trial per household. The ImagiNation Network reserves the right to change features, rates, or specifications at

The ImagiNation Network requires at least a 386 IBM PC compatible computer, a 2400 baud modem, a mouse, a keyboard, and at least 580 kb of available memory. Use of The ImagiNation Network requires a major credit card or checking account. I understand that my first month's membership is free and that it allows me five hours of network access. I understand there is no risk. If I am not having fun, I can call anytime to cancel my membership. Otherwise I'll just keep having fun!

Start Exploring Your Own ImagiNation With 5 Free Hours!

Here's What You Get...

Mail in this card and in less than a week you will receive your software.

A brand new membership with 5 free hours of network time to use within the first 30 days to get acquainted with new friends. After you use your free hours, you'll be billed at a ImagiNation v2.3 rate of \$3.50 per hour during the first

month. Each month you remain a member, you'll be billed just \$9.95 which includes 5 free hours; additional hours are billed \$3.50 each.

3. A free subscription to Imaginings, the members-only full color newsletter that highlights coming attractions and features profiles of members and on-line celebrities.

Here's All You Need...

I have at least a 386sx or better with a hard drive and 4MB RAM. I also have VGA graphics and a Microsoftcompatible mouse.

Z You bet I have at least a 2400 baud modem. You think I want to have all this fun by myself?

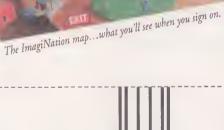
> **3**. To use ImagiNation requires a major credit card. I have one!

4 ImagiNation. Of course I have that. Are you crazy?

And if you need help installing your ImagiNation Network software, or using it, just give us a call. We're available at

1-800-IMAGIN-1

(1-800-462-4461) from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM, seven days a week.





BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO.8 OAKHURST CA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY THE ADDRESSEE

ATTN: MEMBER SERVICES THE IMAGINATION NETWORK PO BOX 1550 OAKHURST CA 93644-9850

NO POSTAGE **NECESSARY** IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES



We pay the postage!

IMAGINATION!.

Get Your Family on **ImagiNation** Today...

ness report at home, send it to the printer hooked up to your office computer and ask a co-worker to drop it on the boss's desk.

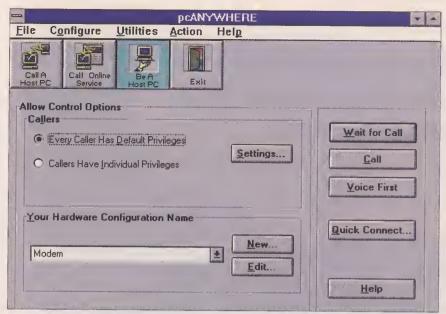
Opposites don't attract

Bear in mind that remote hookups arc always easier between similar computers than across formats or operating systems. It's simpler to link two PCs or two Macintoshes than to tic a PC to a Mac. Most remote software packages—including Carbon Copy, Close-Up, CoSession, pcAnywhere, ReachOut Remote Control, Remotely Possible/DIAL and Takeover—only work for DOS and Windows. Apple's Remote Access Personal Server connects Macs to each other. Timbuktu Pro is one of the few packages that hooks up two Macs, and, in conjunction with Timbuktu for Windows, a Mac to a PC. Similarly, remote software works best between two PCs when both run Windows or both run DOS-otherwise, it struggles to convert Windows' graphical display for a character-based DOS PC.

Some remote packages use separate software for the host machine and the remote computer. In these cases, you'll have to install both picces of software on each machine if you want flexibility. LapLink for Windows and some other programs use the same software for both the host and remote computers.

Whether you use remote access or remote control, you can't dial into a distant computer if its power is off. If you know when you're going to make a remote connection in advance, install a plug-in timer on the computer that isn't where you are. If you can't pin down a specific time, Server Technology's Remote Power On/Off (\$169 from Microwarehouse, 800-367-7080) lets you activate a computer over the phone.

Many remote users worry that if they can dial into a system for information, other people can do the same. It's a valid concern, so most remote software includes password protection to prevent unauthorized access to data on either computer. You can even have the computer you're accessing from a remote location call you back when you dial in, for an extra measure of safety. And callback systems offer an



Most remote-control software adds safeguards to prevent unauthorized use.

added advantage for telecommuters—when the host dials your computer, the phone charges go on your company's bill, not yours.

As we near the year 2000, computers are rewriting a longtime rule

of nature: With remote softwarc, you *can* be in two places at once. •

David D. Busch author of 48 computer books, has worked from a home office since 1974.

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the remote-control software mentioned in this article.

Carbon Copy

Microcom, (\$00) \$22-\$224, (617) 551-1000 \$199 (DOS, Windows)

Close-Up

Norton-Lambert, (S05) 964-6767 \$199 (DOS)

CoSession

Triton Technologies, (S00) 322-9440, (908) S55-9440 \$179 (DOS) \$199 (Windows)

LapLink for Windows

Traveling Software, (800) 343-8080, (206) 483-8088 \$140 (Windows)

Norton pcAnywhere

Symantec, (800) 441-7234, (408) 253-9600 \$179 (DOS, Windows)

ReachOut Remote Control

Ocean Isle Software, (800) 677-6232, (407) 770-4777 \$199 (DOS, Windows)

Remote Access Personal Server

Apple, (800) 776-2333, (408) 996-1010 \$249 (Macintosh)

Remotely Possible/DIAL

Avalan Technology, (800) 441-2281, (508) 429-6482 \$199 (Windows)

Takeover

SoftKlone Distributing, (800) 634-8670, (904) 878-8564 \$199 (DOS)

Timbuktu for Windows Timbuktu Pro

Farallon, (800) 425-4141, (510) 814-5000 \$199 (Windows, Macintosh)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.



ou don't have to have a teenager to appreciate having extra phone jacks. Almost everyone wishes they had more phone jacks around the house.

When I decided to put an office in my home, I called the phone company to find out how much it would cost to add extra phone jacks. Would you believe it was \$158?

No more excuses.

Today, there are a thousand reasons to get an extra phone jack and a thousand excuses not to get one. Now an engineering breakthrough allows you to add a jack anywhere you have an electrical outlet. Without the hassle. Without the expense. And without the miles of wires.

Like plugging in an appliance. Now you can add extensions with a remarkable new device called the Wireless Phone Tack, It allows you to convert your phone signal into an FM signal and then broadcast it over your home's existing electrical wiring.

Just plug the transmitter into a phone jack and an electrical outlet. You can then insert a receiver into any outlet anywhere in your house. You'll be able to move your phone to rooms or areas that have never had jacks before.

Clear reception at any distance. The Wireless Phone Jack uses your home's existing electrical wiring to transmit signals. This gives you sound quality that far exceeds cordless phones. It even exceeds the quality of previous devices. In fact, the Wireless Phone Jack

has ten times the power of its predecessor.

Your range extends as far as you have electrical outlets: five feet or five hundred feet. If you have an outlet, you can turn it into a phone jack-no matter how far away it is. The Wireless Phone Jack's advanced companding noise reduction features guarantee you crystal-clear reception throughout even the largest home.

Privacy guarantee.

You can use The Wireless Phone Jack in any electrical outlet in or around your home, even if it's on a different circuit than the transmitter. Each Wireless Phone Jack uses one of 65,000 different security codes. You can be assured that only your receiver will be able to pick up transmissions from your transmitter.

Unlimited extensions—no monthly charge. Most phone lines can only handle up to five extensions with regular phone jacks. Not with the Wireless Phone Jack. All you need is one transmitter, and you can add as many receivers as you want. Six, ten, there's no limit. And with the Wireless Phone Jack, you'll never get a monthly charge for the extra receivers.

Works with any phone device. This breakthrough technology will fulfill all of your single-line phone needs. It has a special digital interface for use with your fax machine or modem. You can even use it with your answering machine just by plugging it into the Wireless Phone Jack receiver.

Special factorydirect offer. To introduce this new technology, we are offering a special factory-direct package. For a limited time, the transmitter is only \$49. One transmitter works an unlimited number of receivers priced at \$49 for the first one and \$39 for each additional receiver. Plus, with

The Wireless Phone Iack lets you add a phone, modem, fax machine or answering machine almost anywhere.

any Wireless Phone Jack purchase, we'll throw in a phone card with 30 minutes of long distance (a \$30 value) for only \$9.95!

Try it risk-free. The Wireless Phone Jack is backed by Comtrad's exclusive 30-day riskfree home trial. If you're not completely satisfied, return it for a full "No Questions Asked" refund. It is also backed by a one-year manufacturer's limited warranty. Most orders are processed within 72 hours and shipped UPS.

Wireless Phone Jack transmitter ...\$49 \$4 S&H Wireless Phone Jack receiver\$49 \$4 S&H save \$10 on each additional receiver—\$39

30-minute long distance phone card......\$30 \$9.95 with Wireless Phone Jack purchase

Please mention promotional code 017-HG-1108.

For fastest service, call toll-free 24 hours day









To order by mail, send check or money order for the total amount including S&H (VA residents add 4.5% sales tax). Or charge it to your credit card by enclosing your account number and expiration date



2820 Waterford Lake Drive, Suite 106 Midlothian, Virginia 23113

Is the Wireless Phone Jack right for you?

The Wireless Phone Jack works with any single-line phone device. Almost anyone could use it, especially if...

- Few jacks. You want more phone extensions without the hassle and expense of calling the phone company.
- Bad location. You have jacks, but not where you need them most, like in the kitchen, garage, home office or outside on the deck.
- Renting. You want to add extensions, but you don't want to pay each time you move.
- Other phone devices. You have an answering machine, modem or fax machine you want to move to a more convenient place.

The Wireless Phone Jack System

consists of a transmitter (right) and a receiver (left). One transmitter will operate an unlimited number of receivers.



on-line connections

It's Thursday night, and the funniest halfhour of your week, the 30 minutes when Seinfeld airs, just ended. Unfortunately, you got home late and missed the first 10 minutes of what you'd swear was the best episode

find someone who thinks these questions are as important as you do when you start frequenting the TV forums in cyberspace.

Some participants in the on-line TV forums clue in almost too deeply. Kristen, a devotee of Beverly Hills 90210, notes, "Sometimes I spend so much time on [the Internet] talking about the show and reading about what might happen in the next episode

> that I feel like I've already seen it when it finally airs." For

Chuck, a 43-year-old freelance writer, the thrill of connecting with kindred spirits who share his tastes and interests makes logging

With great fan fare, viewers flock to TV forums

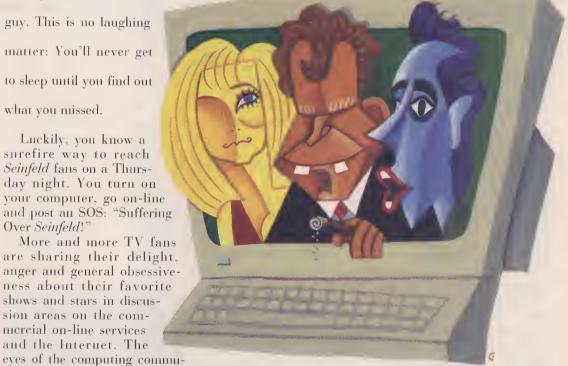
ever. Your family's no help-when you mention the show, they only want to know what's wrong with that Kramer

guy. This is no laughing matter: You'll never get to sleep until you find out what you missed.

Luckily, you know a surefire way to reach Seinfeld fans on a Thursday night. You turn on your computer, go on-line and post an SOS: "Suffering Over Seinfeld!

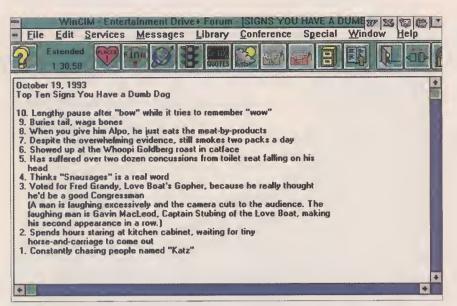
More and more TV fans are sharing their delight, anger and general obsessiveness about their favorite shows and stars in discussion areas on the commercial on-line services and the Internet. The

nity secm never to blink when it comes to the tube. Have you got a theory explaining why Seinfeld's writers waited five years to reveal wacky neighbor Kramer's full name? Did you miss David Letterman's latest Dan Quayle Top 10 list because you were counting sheep? Or did you notice something amiss in the Heather Locklear character's latest scheme on Melrose Place and want to see if anyone else noticed it? You're sure to



in worthwhile, no matter what's being discussed. "If someone watches The Simpsons and The X-Files, I tend to think they're a bit like me," he says.

The creators of some shows are just as interested in finding out what's on the minds of the viewers. J. Michael Straczynski, co-executive producer of the syndicated sci-fi series Babylon 5, and Chris Carter, executive producer of Fox's The X-Files, often eavesdrop on the on-line banter about their shows. The chats give series creators imme-



If you were counting sheep before 11:30, just download Letterman's Top 10.

diate feedback on how an episode was received by the faithful. And passions can run high: ABC reportedly received nearly 3,000 postings from fans of the series My. So-Called Life urging the network to keep the critically acclaimed but ratings-poor show on the air. (At press time, the network apparently had decided to shelve the series despite the on-line petitions.)

The four broadcast networks and individual series producers court such dialogue, sponsoring several of the on-line TV forums and giving hard-core fans a chance to peek at scripts and download still images and video. Some forums sell merchandise, including T-shirts and caps, and offer tickets to tapings.

Active forum participants essentially assemble their own electronic "fanzines," with reviews, news and gossip. So make a list of your favorite shows, then check out these on-line destinations to network with fans who share your tastes.

Sci-fi rules cyberspace

Science-fiction fans and series dominate the on-line TV forums, probably because many sci-fi fans happen to be longtime computer users. Trekkers, X-Filers and followers of Babylon 5, Dr. Who, Earth 2 and Highlander, among other shows, are in good company on all five major commercial on-line services.

If, for instance, you're hooked on the witty asides of The X-Files' Special Agent Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) and Agent Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) during their weekly searches for the paranormal, check out America Online, CompuServe and Delphi for information about past episodes, star bios and "spoilers," or advance information on npcoming episodes. In the X-Files special interest group (SIG) under the Entertainment section on Delphi, for example, "believers" and those on the fence find information on the genesis of the show; character, cast and crew bios; and the "official FAQ sheet," with answers to some frequently asked questions about the series. (It's no surprise that Delphi pours on the information about *The*

X-Files; media magnate Rupert Murdoch owns both the on-line service and the Fox network, which airs the weekly series.)

Delphi's conference area hosts three real-time chats about the show each week, as well as the mofficial discussion that lannches spontaneously on Fridays after a new episode airs. X-Filers post hundreds of messages every day in the

forum area. Fans who want to know more about extraterrestrials and other paranormal subjects can hook into related Internet discussion groups and World Wide Web sites on the Internet directly from the X-Files forum.

If you're one of the legion of Star Trek fans, America Online's Star Trek Club may be as close as you'll get to a United Federation of Planets meeting. The group convenes several times a week to socialize, chat about the adventures of the various Enterprises and play trivia games. (AOL Trekkers can also play Starfleet Online, role-playing simulations based on the show and its sequels.)

CBS, which sponsors the TV forum on Prodigy, recently provided *Trek* fans with a section dedicated to the network's *Star Trek: A Captain's Log* special. Besides generating enough *Trek* trivia to satisfy the most ardent fans, the temporary service offered interviews with cast members and many photos.

Genie's Science Fiction & Fantasy Roundtables are hot spots for discussions about several shows, including those mentioned above and some golden oldies, such as Beauty and the Beast and Dark Shadows. Topics include magazines and newsletters published by the fans, costuming, and clubs.

CompuServe's SF Fantasy Media+ Forum hosts more than 20 discussion groups dedicated to the mainstream sci-fi and fantasy shows, as well as cult favorites, such as the BBC's Red Dwarf se-



Tara firma: CBS's Searlett forum on Prodigy.

ries. The service costs \$5 to \$10 an hour, depending on the speed of your modem.

Pass the soaps

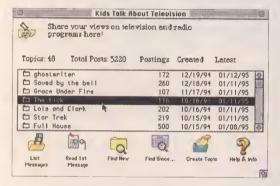
Whether you follow one or all of the daytime or prime-time soaps, the major communical on-line services let you chat with other fans and ask questions about past and future story lines for a long list of shows, including All My Children. Another World, As the World Turns, Bererly Hills 90210. The Bold and the Beautiful, Days of Our Lives, ER, General Hospital, Guiding Light, Loving, One Life To Live, Melrose Place and Sisters. Bulletin-board postings, electronic news reports and still

images of the stars help you keep up on the plots, plans and private lives of all the soap opera characters you love—as well as those you love to hate.

CompuServe offers sections covering soap nostalgia and soaps abroad. In January, Jonathan Reiner, editor of Soap Opera Weekly, visited CompuServe as

Kids say the darndest things? TV forums let them speak up

Your teenage daughter's focused on the computer screen, itching to see if anybody's got the goods



on the next episode of Party of Five. While she's cruising around on-line, she thinks she'll download a picture of hunky Scott Wolf, who plays Baily on the show. She clicks the button and leaves the computer for a while. When she returns, she clicks open the file and... her little sister jumps for joy! That's not handsome Baily on screen-it's that blubbery dinosaur Barney. Someone did a little downloading of her own.

Yes, the on-line TV forums have something for kids of all ages, from Barney and the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers to Sesame Street and Full House. America Online,

CompuServe and Prodigy all offer forums where children can discuss their favorite shows' top stars. review programs and download images. Each of the services hosts celebrity interviews, giving kids a chance to chat in real time with actors from popular shows. Below are a few of the sites that cater to kids' programming and give parents their say about what kids watch.

 The Talk About Television area in America Online's Kids Only Forum (Keyword: Kids) contains two bulletin boards. In one. kids chat about shows such as Ghostwriter. The Tick and Lois & Clark. The other provides parents and teachers with a forum about children's programming, TV violence and how to survive episodes of Barney. (Those with anti-dino impulses may vent in the alt.barney.dinosaur.die.die. die newsgroup on the Internet, which has more than 2,000 postings about Barney's extinction.)

In the future, America Online says, the forum will offer parents and kids direct links to other on-line forums of interest, such as National Geographic's Television area.

- CompuServe's Youth Drive Forum (Go: Ydrive) will appeal mostly to older kids, and especially teens; they'll find more about raucous Ren & Stimpy than Barney here. The Youth Forum hosts a real-time conference every Tuesday night; topics cover all forms of entertainment as well as kids' issues.
- One of the best features in Prodigy's Just Kids area (Jump: Kids) is a direct link to Nickelodeon's U to U show. which invites kids and teens to post their opinions on timely topics. Past bulletin-board discussions have covered fashion, the Power Rangers and the suicide of Kurt Cobain, lead singer of the band Nirvana. U to U also polls kids on Prodigy about subjects such as how they spend their allowance. Each week the TV show's hosts, Ali Rivera and Sertrone Starks, log in to **Prodigy and read postings** on the air. —J.M.



NBC Online gives fans a chance to network with each other and the brass.

host of SoapScoop Live, dishing the dirt and answering fans' questions. (To reach the Soap Opera Forum, part of CompuServe's extended services, hit Go: Soapforum.) Prodigy got into the act with a forum on *Scavlett*, the TV miniseries that dusted off Ms. O'Mara's old hoop skirts.

Delphi offers devotees of Fox's Melrose Place and Bererly Hills 90210 areas similar to The X-Files special interest group, with discussions, conferences and luternet connections. At press time, the saga of "Jo's Baby" was all the rage on Melrose Place. Fans demanded to know: Just how many more times can she lose Baby Austin?

Today's topic: Talk shows

Can Ricki Lake's rising star in the daytime talk-show ratings wars withstand the upcoming challenges of ex-Cosby kid Tempestt Bledsoe and pop singer Carnie Wilson? Margaret, a 34-year-old work-at-home mother who sneaks an occasional peak at Ricki's daytime gabfest, stood up for Ricki during an on-line chat session on Prodigy: "I feel like Ricki understands what it's like to be me, she wrote, adding that she intends to keep watching. For Margaret. on-line discussions about TV offer a chance to interact with adults during the day while she is home with her three children.

Faus of after-hours talk have put David Letterman's nightly Top 10 lists among the most frequently downloaded files in the TV forums. You can access a database of Letterman's top Top 10s from alt.fan.letterman.top-ten on the Internet; insomniacs might remember Top 10 Signs You Are Addicted to Caffeine (No. 3: When a Maxwell House commercial comes on, you actually lick the TV screen).

If you want to connect directly to The Late Show With David Letterman's discussion site on the Internet, sign on to alt.fan.letterman. The CBS-sponsored forum on Prodigy and the fan forums on the other services provide detailed news about upcoming guests on The Late Show as well as some choice Dave lore (including a full report on the episode in which Dave ate wet dog food) without charging extra fees. CompuServe's CBS Forum has a Letterman area, but it's part of the company's extended services, which cost \$5 to \$10 extra per hour depending on your modem's speed.

Laughing out loud

If you need a Seinfeld fix, or you're hankering to know the plot of the next episode of Frasier, visit the NBC forum in America Online's Entertainment area. Or. if you subscribe to one of the other on-line services, count on fans of both NBC shows to be actively dissecting their favorite plots.

ln addition to the usual discussions and souvenirs. NBC's forum offers ticket information, film clips and schedules of upcoming gnest appearances by NBC performers on

the forum. Fans who require less official information, such as Seinfeld's philosophy on unixing cereal, can check out the TV BB Archives on Prodigy. (It should come as no surprise that Jerry, culinary adventurer that he is, mixes brands to find the best "textural" experience.)

Sweetie-darling, you say your tastes are a bit more, shall we say. refined? How about a soupçon of humor from across the pond, via Comedy Central on-line? How absolutely fabulous! The 24-hour comedy channel is home to cult favorite Absolutely Fabulous and other series from the U.K., Canada and the U.S. that inspire a lot of online action, such as The Kids in the Hall, The Young Ones, Mystery Science Theater 3000, Monty Python's Flying Circus and The Benny Hill Show. Discussion groups are active on AOL and Prodigy.

AOL's Comedy Central Forum (Keyword: Comedy) provides delightful, if a tad bawdy, excerpts from shows such as Absolutely Fabulous and Mystery Science Theater 3000 (which starred Joel Hodgson in early seasons and now Mike Nelson as guys marooned in outer space and forced to watch and talk back at-bad movies such as Bride of the Monster). Faus of MST3K, as it's known to the faithful, are invited to vote on their favorite episodes via America Ouline and Prodigy (Jump: Television). After tabulating the responses, Comedy Central shows the most requested episodes on

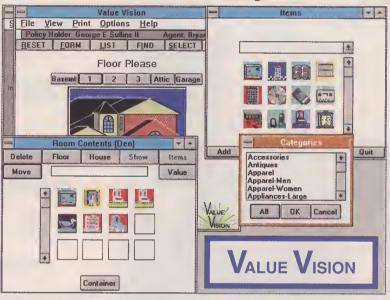
Fridays and Saturdays. So, whether you're stuck on a current hit or a show that's been in reruns for 20 years, chances are good there's someone eager to chew the fat about it on-line, almost any time of the day or night. And if you don't see your favorite program listed on the service of your choice, stay tuned. New TV forums crop up frequently, and it may be only a matter of time until there's a bulletin board about your show of shows. If you can't wait, don't just sit there—start a forum of your own. You'll probably have plenty of company in no time.

Janice Maloney is a San Franciscobased writer.

Free



Personal Inventory Manager...

















Will you know what you had when it's gone? Could you prove it?

Finally, Personal Inventory Software That Is Quick, Easy, And Fun.

Armed only with a mouse and Fusion Software's Value Vision, you can capture the contents of your home or office, and it's quick, easy, and fun. Now you can have the peace of mind you've always wanted, knowing that you are properly insured. And filing an insurance claim with Value Vision is as easy as clicking a mouse button. What used to be a boring, tedious, text operation with a database, word processor, or spreadsheet, is now fun, easy, and graphical with Value Vision. If you can drag and drop an icon, you can create a list of the contents of your home or office. It's that simple!

A Personal Inventory Manager That Has Expert Insurance Advice.

Over 500 colorful icons to help you identify rooms and items in your home or office. You may enter as little or as much information about each item as desired. You can even assign an heir. Value Vision will help you by highlighting insurance company requirements.

fusion in the second se

To prove how important we think your records are we are giving away thousands of copies. But you have to act fast. Order your FREE* copy of Value Vision now. That's right, get this \$99.99 product FREE.

All mail-in orders postmarked on or before May 15, 1995 will be GUARANTEED to ship for the shipping and handling charge only.

ORDER TODAY!

Call: 800-856-8566

713-465-6363 (Houston) 713-465-9749 (fax)

Mail: Fusion Software 9337-B Katy Freeway, Suite 444 Houston, TX 77024 TX residents add 8.25% sales tax

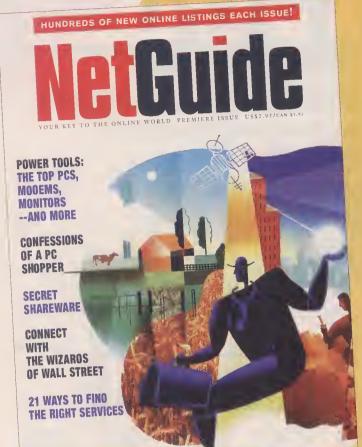


*There is a \$9.95 nonrefundable shipping and handling charge. Have your Mastercard or Visa ready. One copy per household. This offer only available in the U.S. andCanada. IBM PC or compatible running Windows 3.1, VGA or better, mouse or compatible device, and minimum 2MB ram required. This offer is subject to availability. Fusion Software reserves the right to end this offer at any time. Canada add \$3.

© Fusion Software, Inc., Houston, TX 77024-2618. Value Vision is a trademark of Fusion Software. Windows is a trademark of Microsoft® Corporation,

From the publishers of HOMEPC...

The ultimate online navigation tool!





world of

information and

entertainment!

hat's new online? Which Internet newsgroups, chat lines, and bulletin boards are hot? Where's the online action and how do I get there?

Find out with NetGuide, the first-ever program guide to Cyberspace!

There's never been a magazine like NetGuide!

Every month NetGuide points you to the best and brightest places to be and things to see online — more than a hundred listings broken down by areas of interest for quick and easy access.

- News, Arts & Entertainment! Sports!
- Business & Finance! Travel! Reference Sources! • Science & Technology! • Computers &

Software! • Games! • Romance • Lifestyles!

• Politics! • The Media! • And much more!

Those aren't ordinary listings — they're reviews.

Before we publish them, our expert staff researches each listing. How easy is it to access? If it's a bulletin board, is the line always busy? How expensive is it? Is it worth the cost?

Navigate like a pre...

NetGuide isn't only a "where to" guide. It's also a "how-to" manual. You'll learn how to get around cyberspace and valuable techniques to make you a more cost-effective explorer on the information superhighway.

Charter Offer 3 FREE ISSUES!

Be one of the first to try NetGuide! Just complete and mail the card, or call 1-800-238-6644.

OFFER: You will receive a COMPLIMENTARY 3 ISSUE TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION to NetGuide. We will also send a Charter discount invoice for 12 additional issues (15 issues in all) for only \$14.97 - less than a dollar an issue, and a Charter savings of 65% off the newsstand rate. If you aren't amazed by what NetGuide shows you, return the invoice marked "cancel." You will owe nothing and your three free issues will be yours to keep.

bookstore

The Multimedia Home Companion

Edited by Rebecca Buffum Taylor Warner Books, 1994 \$21.95

Almost everyone with a home computer seems faseinated by multimedia these days, but even those

who own a multimedia system

don't have all the answers about

what their systems can do. Some

aren't even sure of all the questions.

Creative Side of Multimedia" explores the ways in which CD-ROM technology has stretched the boundaries of educational and entertainment software.

The book does gloss over one important hardware issue, however: Upgrades are often an exercise in frustration because CD-ROMs designed for speedy newer machines perform poorly on a cobbled-together older system. The

software packages. And one program deemed tops in each category receives the "Eppic Award" (presented annually by Epicenter Communications, which produced The Multimedia Home Companion for Warner Books).

The reviewers give readers lots of facts to chew on, particularly for the products that get the full-page treatment, which includes a pair of screen shots that let you actually see

> some of the program for yourself. Shorter descriptions run at

the back of each section; unfortunately, some of them cover so-ealled "vaporware"—software that's been promised forever but hasn't hit the stores yet. Nevertheless, the reviews can help multimedia newcomers determine which companies produce quality products, and which programs look useful or stimulating.

So many CDs, so little time With some 400 titles on display,

you may be inclined to treat the review section as a giant must-

have list rather than a reference guide. If nothing else, The Multi-

media Home Companion subtly delivers the message that unless

point merits greater emphasis than it receives here.

A multimedia partner that's with you to the end

The bulk of The Multimedia Home Companion is a 215-page review section that offers incisive write-ups of more than 400 multi-

A GUIDE TO THE BEST IN INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

The Multimedia Home Compan-

ion changes that. Regardless of where you are on the learning

curve, get ready for a speedy ride

to the top. The book's opening sec-

tions provide solid technical back-

Charter Offer 3 FREE

1. FIRST. get 3 Charter sample issues to examine without risk.

THEN, if you want, continue with 12 more issues for just \$14.97 - a 66% CHARTER SAVINGS!

FINALLY, if you ever want to stop your subscription, you get a full refund on your entire

mplimentary rial Subscription r fastest service, Ш 1-800-238-6644

YES, enroll me as a Charter subscriber for 3 FREE ISSUES of NetGuide. Then send me an invoice for 12 additional issues (that's 15 issues in all) for only \$14.97 - less than a dollar an issue, and a Charter savings of 66% off the newsstand rate. I'll send my check if I want NetGuide. If not, I'll write "cancel" on the bill, return it, and keep my 3 sample

Name			
Address			_
City	State	Zip	
E-Mail address (if applicable)			

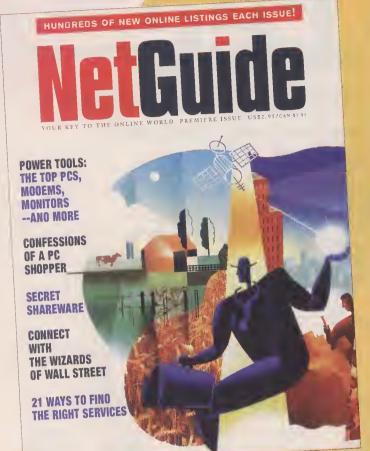
Mail to: NetGuide, P.O. Box 420355, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0355



SAVE! 15 issues of NetGuide will cost \$44.25 on newsstands. You get them for the low Charter introductory rate of \$14.97! Send no money. We'll bill you later!

 Please send me information on subscribing to HOMEPC magazine. 1503HD From the publishers of HOMEPC...

The ultimate online navigation tool!





monthly guide
to the online
world of
information and
entertainment!

hat's new online? Which Internet newsgroups, chat lines, and bulletin boards are hot? Where's the online action — Software! • Games! • Romance • Lifestyles!

• Politics! • The Media! • And much more!

These arsn't ordinary listings -

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAI

PERMIT NO 61

FLAGLER BEACH, FL

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

NetGuide

P.O. Box 420355

Palm Coast, FL 32142-9371

հովուսիումի հոկահվեկումի կոլում կոլում

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



bookstore

WHAT'S NEW ON THE SHELF

The Multimedia Home Companion

Edited by Rebecca Buffum Taylor Warner Books, 1994 \$21.95

Almost everyone with a home computer seems fascinated by multimedia these days, but even those Creative Side of Multimedia" explores the ways in which CD-ROM technology has stretched the boundaries of educational and entertainment software.

The book does gloss over one important hardware issue, however: Upgrades are often an exercise in frustration because CD-ROMs designed for speedy newer machines perform poorly on a cobbled-together older system. The

software packages. And one program deemed tops in each category receives the "Eppie Award" (presented annually by Epicenter Communications, which produced *The Multimedia Home Companion* for Warner Books).

The reviewers give readers lots of facts to chew on, particularly for the products that get the full-page treatment, which includes a pair of screen shots that let you actually see

> some of the program for yourself. Shorter descriptions run at

the back of each section; unfortunately, some of them cover so-called "vaporware"—software that's been promised forever but hasn't hit the stores yet. Nevertheless, the reviews can help multimedia newcomers determine which companies produce quality products, and which programs look useful or stimulating.

A multimedia partner that's with you to the end

who own a multimedia system don't have all the answers about what their systems can do. Some aren't even sure of all the questions.

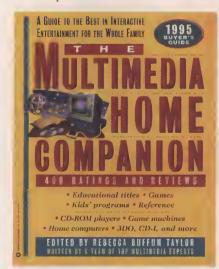
The Multimedia Home Companion changes that. Regardless of where you are on the learning curve, get ready for a speedy ride to the top. The book's opening sec-

tions provide solid technical background information about multimedia hardware and creativity that gives you a firm foundation in the basics. Then you'll set out on a journey to multimedia's new frontier: the burgeoning CD-ROM software business.

Whether you want to add bells and whistles to your current computer or bny a multimedia setup from scratch, this book can help you. The writers' advice is pithy, to the point and practical. The first three chapters offer a tempting appetizer: "The Changing Multimedia Landscape" and "Choosing the Best Platform" prepare you to take the multimedia plunge, and "The

point merits greater cmphasis than it receives here.

The bulk of *The Multimedia Home Companion* is a 215-page review section that offers incisive write-ups of more than 400 multi-



media programs. The reviews come from five writers—Gareth Branwyn, Gregg Keizer, Peter Seiseo, Charles Taft and Sandy Reed—who cover multimedia for magazines that span points of view from the avant-garde *Wired* to the family-oriented *Parent and Child*.

The reviews fall into five categories—Edutainment, Games, Kids' Corner, Reference and How-To. Each section offers a tasty smorgasbord of the good, better and best of today's multimedia

So many CDs, so little time

With some 400 titles on display. you may be inclined to treat the review section as a giant musthave list rather than a reference guide. If nothing clse, The Multimedia Home Companion subtly delivers the message that unless you eat, sleep and breathe multimedia 24 hours a day, you'll never get to see or do it all. And even if you could, good luck paying for it all; my wish list of CD-ROM titles, while not numbering in the hundreds, still totals almost \$3,000 at eurrent retail prices. A few honrs spent with The Multimedia Home Companion will help you become a discriminating consumer of the programs that are worth your time and money.

The book's appendixes make it an even better value. Every software title is listed in an alphabetical index, including information about the publisher, platform and category. Each publisher's address and telephone number is listed in a separate appendix.

by pam kane

Most handy, however, is Appendix D, a two-page worksheet to help you zero in on the multimedia system that's right for you. The worksheet lists important questions to ask retailers, and provides spaces to record price quotes from up to five sources. Even though it's at the back of the book, it's really the start of something big-your multimedia future.

Photo-surrealism

Playing in the Digital Funhouse by Michael Cuthbertson and Phillip Robinson MIS: Press, 1994 \$21.95

Outrageous PC FX: Tools and **Techniques for Outrageous Graphic Effects**

by David D. Busch MIS: Press, 1995 \$34.95

Everyone should spend some time just goofing around at the computer. Two new books not only encourage fiddling, diddling and giggling, they tell you how to do it and provide the tools you'll need to



mess around in style. Playing in the Digital Funliouse is a good introduction to computer graphics that focuses on one program, Symsoft's Digital Funhouse; Outrageous PC FX provides in-depth information about several programs.

If you're a stranger to graphics software, Playing in the Digital Funhouse is the easier book to understand. It teaches you how to use Digital Funhouse to manipulate photos and other images on your PC. A floppy disk that comes with the book contains a "lite" version of Digital Funhouse, with three images to get you started.

The book's excellent black-andwhite illustrations and screen shots provide a useful preview of Digital Funhouse. Screen photos also display the right and wrong ways to

use the program's tools.

The book shows how to create Digital Funhouse's exclusive effects, such as "bulging" (exaggerating graphical elements in a balloon-like manner) and "squinching" (constricting those elements). You also learn how to pull off more familiar tricks such as stippling (adding a dot-like texture) and blurring a picture. Digital Funhouse has its limits, however; it won't let you morph (blend two photos into one; see this issue's Hobbies + Lifestyles story) or experiment with color.

After playing with Digital Funhouse's scaled-down version for a while, you may pine for the fullblown program—plus a scanner or photo ČDs so you can work with your own pictures. The book can't help you obtain those items, but it does have a coupon good for a \$30 discount on the regular version of the software, which lists for \$79. Once you finish reading *Playing in the Digital* Funhouse and exploring its visual trickery, the odds are pretty good you'll want the whole digital

amusement park.

Image and reality

Here's where Outrageous PC FX comes in. Using this book, you can create sophisticated special effects on your PC that you may have thought were possible only in a professional darkroom. You can concoct images from scratch, make color separations, retouch and mix images, and more.

Although computer novices will find this book valuable, author David D. Busch, a frequent contributor to HomePC, assumes the reader has at least a passing familiarity with basic photography. You'll need to digest some specialized vocabulary (for example, the difference between "burning" and "dodging," two photo-printing processes), so settle into a comfy chair and read the first



part of the book closely. Pay special attention to chapter two, "Arming Yourself for the Imaging Battle." This comprehensive section describes in detail everything you need to do if you want to become an FX whiz-whether you own a \$2,500 486-based PC or a \$25,000 lollapalooza with scads of memory and a 16.7-million-

color display.

Unlike the disk that accompanies Playing in the Digital Funhouse, the CD-ROM included with Outrageous PC FX is a sophisticated sampler of several commercial software programs, including Adobe Photoshop and the Elastic Reality drawing package. All the software is save-disabled, however, which means you get merely a taste of what the programs can do. Still, there's plenty to play with here, from a wide range of PostScript and TrueType fonts to 24-bit (16.7-million-color) versions of the exquisite color pictures found in the book itself.

lf you're a beginner, an expert or somewhere in between-and particularly if you're involved in desktop publishing—Outrageous PC FX is more than just a guide to goofing off; it's a must-have reference that can help jump-start your

creative juices.

HOMEPC connection

An exciting section where you'll discover a world of inviting products to fulfill your demands and wish lists.

Products that will help you gain maximum productivity as you work, and peak enjoyment as you learn, play and relax.

Just look for the distinct red border and you'll find THE HOMEPC CONNECTION.

Business Opportunities Hefty Publishing Ca., Inc.227 National Claims Services227 National Camputerized Business Services Inc. .. 227 Precision Data223 CD ROM/Multimedia Camputer Gallery233 Cansalidated CD ROM......231 E²Soft233 EDUCORP......241 Mr. CD-ROM......243 NeoSoft Carp.238 Vicarious......233 **Computer Checks** Education Grantham Callege222 Institute af Technical Studies222 Integrated Education222 Fitness/Muscle AlphaSpart230 **Kids Korner** Lawrence Productions.......237 The Edutainment Company......237 ERGOkids240 Language TransLanguage Inc.237 **Medical Reference**

Pixel Perfect......231

Music

Problem Resolution CyberMedia	27
,	21
Screen Savers Fishpat Images	31
SewingA&R Enterprises22QuiltSOFT22	
Shareware The Saurce	28
VIDEOS Instructional	
User's Chaice	29
ON-LINE	
On-The-Net Glabal Gallery	
ACCESSORIES	
CD ROM Accessories MacTec, Inc	31
Computer Covers CPM Merchandising, Inc	28
Touch Screen KEYTEC, Inc	22
SERVICES	
Computer Insurance Safeware, The Insurance Agency, Inc	20
Voicemail	
Cannect America22	8

Design Your Own **Cross Stitch Patterns!**

PCSTITCH for Windows
The Software for Cross Stitch Pattern Design

- Full, Half, Quarter, and Outline stitches supported
- Any pattern is sizable up to 500 x 500 Stitches.
- Use mirror mode for drawing symetrical objects.
- Use up to 64 different colored threads per pattern.
- Import images directly from any BMP, PCX, TIF, or GIF graphic file or from the windows clipboard.
- Automatic pattern centering to the size of your pattern cloth either vertically, horizontally, or both
- The color palette for any pattern will be automatically adjusted to add thread colors from imported images.
- Drawing tools include copy, move, paint, center flip and rotate
- Select pattern colors from a list of 390 threads, all of which have the corresponding DMC, Anchor, or J&P thread number.
- Quality pattern printouts on any Windows supported printer.
- A full pattern window for viewing your entire pattern at once



Finalis

M&R Enterprises PO Box 9403, Dept 805 Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, Ohio 45409 (800) 800-8517 Int. Calls (513) 263-4122

To order send \$79.95 to the address above or call us toll free for a credit card order. System requires Microsoft Windows 3.1 or later, 2 Meg of free memory, 5 Meg of hard disk space and a mouse.

QUILTER'S DESIGN STUDIO™

NEW Version for Windows®!

The Ultimate Tool For Creating Beautiful Quilts!

Display your quilt designs right on your screen! Print ready-to-use templates - in seconds! Create new blocks - or use existing ones! Calculate yardage - also in metric!

Add unlimited colors - and more!

*plus shipping and handling

Also available for the Macintosh®

VISA

TO ORDER or for FREE INFO: 619-583-2970 • FAX: 619-583-2682

QuiltSOFT™ P.O. Box 19946 San Diego, CA 92159-0946

Sure it's Insured?

Most computers are not insured. And ordinary policies may exclude or limit the coverage you need. Do you have the ready cash to replace stolen or damaged equipment? You will if you have SAFEWARE's comprehensive COMPUTEROWNERS coverage. It provides Mentioner a replacement of hardware, media and purchased soft-

ware for just pennies a day! Your protection includes theft, fire, accidental damage, and more. Even costly power surges are covered. Just select your system value and premium from the table below. Use the coupon or call for immediate coverage. Now available in Ontario

Call for immediate coverage or information

1-800-SAFEWARE Amount of Insurance Annual Premium \$ 49

Up to \$2,000 \$ 2.001 - \$ 5.000 \$ 5.001 - \$ 8.000 \$ 8.001 - \$11.000 \$ 109 \$11.001-\$14.000 \$ 129

Underwriting requirements may vary by state. Void where prohibited.
Call for rates in TX, NY.

FAX: 1-614-262-1714 On CompuServe, "Go SAF" SAFEWARE, The Insurance Agency Inc. 2929 N. High St. PO Box 02211

Odil for fatos in 174 191.	Coldinous, Oli 43202
10 DAY TRIAL. Review your policy	
you receive it. Satisfaction guarantee	ed or your money back.
Name	
Address	
Phone (Daytime)	
☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Visa I	☐ MasterCard Exp
Card #	•
Total value of hardware, media an	d purchase software \$
	(Insure to full value)

Your signature

Mail to SAFEWARE, The Insurance Agency Inc., 2929 N. High St.,
PO Box 02211, Columbus, OH 43202 Underwritten by American Bankers Insurance Company, 11222 Quail Roost Drive, Miami, FL 33157



QUICKEN, SIMPLY MONEY, MICROSOFT MONEY AND MANY MORE! Designer

CONTINUOUS FEED CHECKS

Continuous feed checks are $9^{-1}/2^{\circ}$ wide $(8^{-1}/2^{\circ}$ without lineholes) and load straight onto your tractor feed printer without moving your sprocket.

Rusiness Size

Item	Single	Du licate	
250	\$ 24.95	\$ 39.95	
500	37.95	54.95	
1000	57.95	89.95	
2000	89.95	149.95	

41.95



LASER/INKJET CHECKS Laser/inkjet checks come three to a page, measuring $8\ ^{1}/^{2}\times 11^{\circ}$, and can be placed directly in your printer's paper tray. For printing one or two checks, order laser/inkjet check savers.

Item	Sin le
250	S 29.95
500	42.95
1000	59.95
2000	88.95
2000	00.33



Stop wasting time hand writing checks! Continuous and laser/inkjet checks are guaranteed bank compatible. Finest quality checks are available and at the best prices too! Available with or without file copy. Save additional time by using window envelope (A).

Business Laser (with voucher)







0]

CHECK SAVERS

Item	Price
Continuous Check Saver (set of 5)	\$7.95
Single Sheet Check Saver (set of 5)	\$7.95

The simplest, most cost I he simplest, most cost effective way to stop form waste and spare accounting ime. Check Saver saves the irst form of a continuous string when feeding into impact printers and are reusable.

With laser Check Saver, laser and inkjet printers can now handle smaller single forms, like checks, labels, envelopes or odd-size documents. And remember, Check Saver is reusable!

DEPOSIT SLIPS



Deposit Slips \$12,95

Preprinted with your account number and name a address, to save you time. When ordering, please enclose one of your current deposit slips.

ENVELOPES

Double Window Envelopes Don't waste time addressing envelopes Guaranteed to work with your checks!



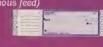
Wallet Size (continuous feed)

Item	Single
250	\$ 24.95
500	37.95
1000	57.95
2000	70 05

250 500

1000

2000









Business & Wallet 100 250 500 29 95 44.95

Choose from 4 stylish colors! Green Classic Blue Gold

SOFTWARE COMPATIBILITY LIST , BACS, Business Sense, Certiflex, AC Easy, Dollars & Sense. Micro Associates, MicroBiz Corp., Microsoft "Money", MYOB, Money Matters, Monogram, Open Systems, Paciol 2000, Peachtree Software, Rags To Riches, Realworld, Royal Softw SST, Simply Money, Simply Accounting, Systems Plus, Time Is Money, Varid Systems And many more!

*Software pages are trademaked at their presentive companies.

tant Hooper International, INTUIT, Ma

READ THIS FIRST

1. Enclose reorder form or voided check from existing check supply, noting any changes.

2. Include deposit slip from existing check supply.

3. Enclose your payment check.
4. Fill out the order form and mail with items 1, 2, & 3.

All Orders:

Your software:

Version:

VISA (13 or 16 digits) MasterCard (16 digits) Check enclosed (Payable to Designer Checks)

Credit Card Number Expiration Date: Name on Credit Card: Cardholder Signature:

Please check that your credit card number has been filled in completely.

ORDER FORM

ORDER INFORMATION (OR USE SEPARATE SHEET)

Item Description (Complete on Lines Below)	Color	Quantity	Starting Check Number*	Price
* If no starting number is indicate	ed, 1001 will be use	Subtotal		
Sales Tax (Alal	bama resident	s add 8%)		
Note:	Shipping and	d Handling		\$5.00

Order Total

P0844494 PLEASE SHIP TO:

Name: -Address: -State/Zip: Daytime Phone Number: _

FAX ORDERS: Please fax a copy of your voided check and indicate any changes.

Customer Service: 1-800-239-4087 Fax Orders To: 1-800-774-1118

(Fax Number:)_

EDUCATION/TOUCH SCREEN

MAGIC TOUCH

Turns Your Monitor Into a Touch-Interactive Device

It's EASY. POWERFUL. FUN AND AFFORDABLE



Now you can run all your Windows mouse driven programs with the touch of your finger or any round-pointed stylus. Magic Touch simply attaches to your 13 or 15 inch monitor to create a touch interactive device.

Beginners can enjoy the fun of using touch to interact with their software. Experts can explore the infinite solutions created by touch interaction.

Magic Touch — the most affordable touch product on the market. We also offer a full range of integrated touch monitor and software utilities for touch application development.

& KEYTEC, INC

where you find the magic touch

TO ORDER Call Toll-Free 1-800-MAGIC 89 or Fax 214-234-8542 or Mail Coupon Today

ı	KEYTEC, INC.
	1293 N.Plano Rd. 1-800 MAGIC 89
	Richardson, TX 75081
	Rush FREE Facts on MAGIC TOUCH
	NAME
	ADDRESS
	CITY
	STATE ZIP
	TEL FAX

OBTAIN YOUR COMPUTER DIPLOMA AT HOME

Earn your diploma to become a

- Computer Applications Specialist (learn spreadsheet, database & desktop publishing.)
- Computer Programming Specialist (learn C/C++ & Visual
- Multimedia Specialist (learn how to create multimedia (sound, animation, etc.) applications)
- System Analyst /Certification (become a certified computer professional in just a few months)



All courses home study and accredited by the International Association of Continuing Education & Training. Unique learning method

includes videos, all needed software, tutorials, textbooks, & day/night instructor assistance all at a very affordable price.

Call for FREE catalog today!

1-800-9-ITS-ITS

Institute of Technical Studies

State Licensed & Bonded

Home Study

Computer Science ACCREDITED **B.S. DEGREE**

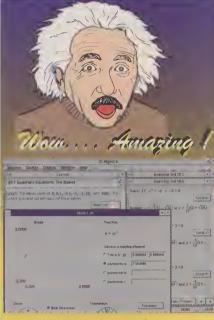
Our 44th year. B.S. degrees in computer science and other fields. All teaching is by home study. Grantham lesson materials. Personal help by mail, phone,

You are a class of one when asking for assistance from your instructor, all included in the regular tuition. Professional software, no additional charge. Our emphasis is on teaching you computer science and guiding you to professional competence as well as your B.S. degree. Our degrees are accredited by the Distance Education and Training Council, Washington, DC.

Free Catalog: 1 (800) 955-2527

GRANTHAM College of Engineering

34641 Grantham College Rd. Slidell, LA 70469-5700



Comprehensive coverage of Basic Algebra and Intermediate Algebra.

For Microsoft Windows 3.1

- · Each lesson has lectures, examples, and exercises. All in hypermedia format.
- · Unlimited number of exercise problems with answers prepared by computer.
- Math Lab can graph any function. You can experiment with functions with parameters too.
- · Easy to read lessons with real-life examples.
- Video presentations make things easy to understand in the multimedia edition.
- Slide shows are used in the standard edition to get ideas



· Teacher's edition enables a teacher to write hypermedia materials for students with specific needs, supplementing her classroom lecture.

For more information

Call: 800-917-3338 or 801-355-7624

To order, send this form with check to: Integrated Education

P.O. Box 3415, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-3415

	IE Algebra, multimedia edition, IE Algebra, standard edition, IE Algebra, teacher's edition,	\$42.90 \$35.90 \$72.90
	Tak (I. ligh providents only, 8.125%)	
Include	Shipping and handling	\$6.00

Include your Address!	Shipping and handling
--------------------------	-----------------------

30-day money back guaranteed!	rotar	
Nindows ¹³⁴ is a trademark of Microsoft® Corporation E Algebra ¹³¹ is a trademark of Integrated Education 8	17 (004,	

Be a computer repair expert!

Career-level home study. Learn all about PC repairs, installa-tion, troubleshooting, upgrading, servicing, and much more.

Open your own business or become a more valuable employee. Free career literature: send or call 24 hours a day.

Call 800-223-4542

The School of PC Repair PCDI, 6065 Roswell Road Dept. JJC275, Atlanta, Georgia 30328

Home study—earn great money:

BECOME A MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST!

Experienced transcriptionists can make up to \$25,000 transcribing MDs' notes from tapes. Be in demand, work in doctors' offices, hospitals, or clinics—or at home. Free career literature: send or call 24 hours a day



CALL 800-223-4542

Phone (

THE SCHOOL OF MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION
PCDI, 6065 Roswell Road
Dept. YYC275, Atlanta, Georgia 30328

Electronic Claims Processing

is fast becoming the most profitable homebased business opportunity available today. Marquette is the industry leader in medical claims billing software and expertise.

The Marquette Difference

- No experience required. We provide full, one-on-one training.
- Excellent income potential, working full- or part-time from home.
- Package includes Marquette's own 4-program success system: Margsman, TragMarg, CodeMarg and CostMarg.
- · First year free software updates and 24-hour technical support.
- A sizzling marketing plan.
- Physician leads provided for your area.
- Minimum investment: \$4,995.

Call Now For Free Information

Dealer Enquiries Welcome

Won 39 Lotto Jackpots Worth \$79.2 Million Dollars!

* COMPLETE drawing results for ALL 59 pick 5, 6, & 7 # Lotto games FREE • Over 50 scientific charts & reports to zero in on winners • Automatic SMART PICKS™ selects best Lotto #s instantly • Test past eccuracy of SMART PICKS™ with one key strokel . Detailed 62-page manual shows how to identify winning patterns . A \$295.00 value. Your introductory price for a limited time only: \$79.95 + \$3 S/H.

COMPUTER WHEELTM
Has 252 Lotto Wheeling Systems with specific win guarantees. All flawless. Find one system that fails its win guarantee, end you get DOUBLE your money back! \$39.50 + \$3 S/H

ADVANTAGE PLUS™ and

COMPUTER WHEELTM SAVE \$20! Buy BOTH for only \$99.95 + \$3 S/H (IBM/Comp. 5.25 or 3.5)

Use this system and you will trash all your other lottery software!

A PROVEN WINNER! DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS.

1-800-876-4245 SMART LUCK® SOFTWARE

Dept. E-6, P.O. Box 1519 White Plains, NY 10602-1519

PPORTUNITIES/LOTTER

ō

BUSINESS

1-800-876-GAIL (4245) or 914-761-2333



Start A Business At Home Creating Personalized Books

- Disney,[©] Barbie,[©] Power Rangers,[©] NFL[©] Warner Brothers, and Where's Waldo?
- 30 Book Titles
- Religious and Ethnic Themes
- Books, Business Cards, Clocks and Stationery
- 500% Profit With A Small Investment

(214) 250-1000 Book and

BEST PLAZA • 4201 AIRBORN • DALLAS, Tx 75248

Your computer can. make money while you sleep.

Revolutionary New High-Tech Business almost runs itself!

Your computer and modem will work all night providing a profitable service to businesses in your area. With this totally new service, your computer will automatically do off-site data backups for your clients at night, while businesses are closed, using our special software. It's an ideal home- or office-based business.

√ The RBS Book shows you how to set up and run your own Remote Backup Service. Includes 3 Bonus Diskettes - 70 RBS S/W & PD programs, and Home-Office support!

V Our exclusive RBS Software runs the service for you automatically while you sleep.

\$329 All the Info and software you need to get started 30 day satisfaction guarantee.

For all the details, and a FREE report on this exciting new industry, call for your Free Information Package

901-681-0445 Ex 116

24-hr Automated Info/Faxback line Sales 800-833-4732



CALL NOW!

Computer Business Kits VISA by Precision Data Corporation 1720 Harbor; Memphis, TN 38113

Fill out the survey and win

Return your completed survey before March 31, 1995 and qualify for the drawing to win one of three Back-UPS or one of eight Surge Protectors from American Power Conversion.

No purchase is necessary. Simply fill out and return the survey at the right to CMP Publications, Inc.



It's been said that there are two types of computer users: those who have lost data because of a power problem, and those who are going to. Protect yourself from software bugs, hardware damage, and even data loss from power disturbances.

American Power Conversion Back-UPS give you instantaneous power preventing loss caused by outages and brownouts. Put simply, UPS products switch on when the AC power goes off. Surge Protectors protect against power surges and spikes, providing you with clean, consistent power.

The suggested retail price for Back-UPS is \$139 and \$49.95 for the Surge Protectors.



APC

AMERICAN POWER CONVERSION

HOMEPC It really hits home

Help us help you!

Name:

To help us better understand how you use the computers in your household and what your software preferences are, we would appreciate your participation in this confidential survey. Your responses will help us provide the stories and information most important to you and will make you eligible to win a free prize!

Please complete the following (required for prize eligibility):

Address:		
City:		
	ade:	
Phone: ()		
1. Pleose check one of the foll	owing. Are you:	
☐ A subscriber ta <i>HomePC</i> ?☐ Reviewing a sample capy af <i>HomeP</i>	A newsstand buyer of C?	of HomePC?
2. Are you mole or femole? W	/hot is your oge?	
☐ Male ☐ Femole	Age	
Whot is the total household	l income ot your i	residence?
□ \$20,000-\$39,999	⊒ \$80,000-\$99,999 ⊒ \$100,000-\$124,999 ⊒ \$125,000+	9
4. Whot is the highest level of	education you've	e completed?
□ High schaal graduate □ Same callege/na degree □ College graduate	□ Post-graduate study, □ Past-graduate degre	/na degree e(s)
5. Do you hove children curre and/or ottending college? Yes \(\frac{1}{2} \) Na	ntly living in your	household
Questions 6 through 17 r	elote to computers or	nd reloted
products purchosed duri	- ,	
6. Did onyone in your househo computer os o holidoy gift in 1	1994?	e o home
→ Yes → Na (skip ta		
7. Including your new compute currently in use in your housel	er, how mony co nold?	mputers ore
□1 □2	□ 3	4 ar mare
B. How would you describe yo	our new home co	mputer?
→ 486 multimedia PC (incl. CD- ROM drive, speakers, etc.) → 486 PC	 Performa (from a Macintash campumadels) 	Apple) iter (ather
Pentium multimedia PC (incl. CD- ROM drive, speakers, etc.) Pentium PC	□ 486 laptap/nate □ 386 laptap/nate □ Apple laptap/nat	baak
7. Whot company mokes your		enaak
Trior company mores your	new composer.	
10. How long did it toke you to t working?	o unpock your co	mputer ond ge
hours		
11. Did you hove ony problem	is setting up your	computer?
Yes No	It I	0
l 1o. If "Yes," whot problems o	ara you encounte	r:

12. Did you hove computer to run p		the store for	ossistonce	to get your		
Yes	□ Na (ski	p to Q.12b)				
12o. Were you so			ce you recei	ved?		
☐ Yes	□ Na					
12b. Did you hav				for		
ossistonce to get			operly?			
Yes	□ No (skij					
12c. Were you so		the ossistone	e you receiv	red?		
Yes	□ Na					
13. Hove you ho			our comput	er?		
Yes	☐ No (skip					
13o. If "Yes," wh	not problem	ns did you er	ncounter?			
14. Bosed on you sotisfied with it?	ur use of yo	our new com	puter so for	, ore you		
☐ Yes	□ Na					
14o. Would you or neighbor?	recommend	d this compu	ter to o frie	nd		
☐ Yes	□ Na					
15. Did onyone in CD-ROMs os o ho	olidoy gift i	n 1994?	or receive) s	oftwore or		
Yes	□ Na (skip					
150. Pleose indic softwore or CD-R received during the plon to buy in 19	OM softwo he '94 holi	re your hous doy seoson,	sehold boug ond what ty	ht/		
	Number of tit or purchosed	les received	Types of :	softwore you buy in 1995		
	PC softwore	CD-ROM	PC softwo	re CD-ROM		
Game/entertainment						
Educatian (far kids)			0	0		
Education (far adults)						
Reference						
Praductivity (spreadshe	eet, ward prace	essing, datab <i>o</i> se,	financial, affic	e suite)		
Habby				Ч		
Other (specify belaw)						
			-	J		
			-			
16. Hove you hoo	ony probl	ems installin	a the softwa	200		
□ Yes	□ No (skip		g me somm	5.0.		
160. If "Yes," who			counter?			
•		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,				
						
17. Hove you hod			e softwore?			
Yes	☐ Yes ☐ Na (skip ta Q.18) 170. If "Yes," whot problems did you encounter?					
I/o. It "Yes," who	ot problem	s did you en	counter?			

18. Which of the following best describes the woy you read HomePC?	23. If you subscribe to HomePC, ore you satisfied with the information you're receiving?
Read caver ta caver Read articles of interest and laak thraugh remaining pages Read table of cantents and articles of interest anly Skim or laak thraugh quickly 19. Whot percentoge of the poges in this issue do you expect to look of?	Yes If "Na," what additional type of information do you need from HomePC?
□ 67%-100% □ 34%-66% □ 1%-33% □ 0%	
20. Which orticles in this issue did you like best? (Pleose check oll that opply.)	
□ Ask Dr. PC □ Grades 9–12 □ Financial Adviser □ Hat Stuff! □ Fun and Games □ Warking At Hame □ Best Buys □ Cansumer Lab □ Hame Library □ Baakstare □ Preschaal—Grade 3 □ Nuts + Balts □ Finishing Tauch □ Grades 4–B □ Habbies + Lifestyles □ Other (Print titles belaw)	24. If you could chonge onything obout the editoriol content of HomePC, whot would you chonge?
21. If you bought HomePC on the newsstand, do you plon to buy it ogoin?	Please be assured that your name will not be sold/rented/leased to any outsi party. Your responses are confidential and your name is only used for confest draing eligibility. —HomePC Resear
Yes Na If "Yes," why? If "Na," why nat?	No purchase necessary. To enter, fill out the questionnaire and return it to Hon PC Magazine, 600 Community Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030 (Attention: Michael E Mith). All entries must be received on or before March 25, 1995. Prize winners we be determined at a random drawing of all completed entries at CMP Publication office on March 25, 1995. The winners will be notified by mail and announced in subsequent issue of HannePC Judges' decision is final. The drawing is supposed
22. Would you recommend HomePC to friends or colleagues who have a home computer or an interest in home computing?	CMP Publications, Inc. The prize for this drawing is listed on the page preceding this survey. No substitution for prizes, which are not transferable. Taxes are the seresponsibility of the winners. Each winner will be required to sign and return an fidavit of eligibility, liability release and grant permission to use his/her name a address for advertiging and recognition, within 21 days of notification or an alternation.
Yes \(\text{In Na} \text{ Na If "Yes," why? If "Na," why nat?}	winner will be selected. Contest void where prohibited or restricted by law. Drawi open to residents of the United States who are 18 years or older and are not emple ees of CMP Publications, Inc., or its advertising, promotion or production agenc or members of their immediate families. Only one entry per customer. Odds of wining are determined by the total number of eligible entries received. No responsibilities assumed for lost, late or misdirected entries. For a list of winners, available af March 25, 1995, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the above addre

FOLD HERE TO MAIL

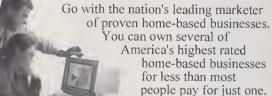
Place Proper Postage Here

HOMEPC

CMP PUBLICATIONS, INC. 600 Community Drive Manhasset, NY 11030-9811 Attn: Michael DeMilt

T' HOME-BASED **BUSINESSES!**

Jork at home and be your own boss with our wide selection of high income, computer based opportunities.



- Travel Consulting
- Utility Bill Auditing
- Employment Sourcing
- Desktop Publishing
- Information Broker
- Mortgage Acceleration • Home Inspection
- Medical Billing
- College Financial Aid

... and more!

Start part time and retain the security of your present job. Excellent earning potential. Programs from \$2,495. Call 24 hours a day for a FREE Audio Tape & Information Packet.

National Computerized Business Services Inc. 800-616-6227

Make Money Personalizing Children's Books



Exclusive New Safety-Bind System

- Use Your Home Computer
- No Experience Necessary
- Original Patented Processes
 - Interactive Sticker Books
- Quality Handcrafted Books

McGruff • Thumbelina • Little Mermaid

Raggedy Ann • Cabbage Patch Kids

15th Anniversary. 1980-1995

1-800-732-3009

Fix Windows at the Touch of a Button

MS Windows is great. But robust? Not always.

Lost drivers, bad .INI files, misplaced DLLs and application components, printing and network problems... they're all capable of stopping your productivity dead in its tracks.

Then, you get to either put on your own 'tech support' hat and wrestle with the problem, or call for tech support. And wait.

Forget that. Now you can avoid many crashes altogether.

Introducing First Aid for Windows Users."

This simple, automatic program runs in the background and monitors Windows behavior, anticipating problems.



When it finds a problem, it pops up, alerting you to the situation, explaining it, and providing the solution. One key-

stroke or mouse click, and it's fixed.

That's all there is to it.

First Aid for Windows Users fixes over 1,000 common problems with Windows and most popular Windows applications.

Ask your favorite software dealer today, or call us direct.

Reach for our First Aid package.

Priced at less than \$50, it will pay for itself the first time you use it.

First Aid for

Windows Users is the application you can't afford to be without.

©1994 CyberMedia. Trademarks are property of their respective owners

Instant Support From



1800 Century Park East, Suite 1145, Century City, CA 90067 800-5CYBER-D Fax: (310) 843-0120

Work At Home & Be Your Own Boss

Electronic Claims Processing
"One of the Hottest & Most Profitable Businesses of the 90's"

-Entrepreneur Start-up Business Guide

A New **High Income** Home-based Business— Electronically **Processing** Health Claims



RESOLUTION

OPPORTUNITIES/PROBLEM

BUSINESS

National Claims Service offers the most complete package available, including a two day training seminar, video training courses, software and a professional start-up package. Previous computer or billing experience are not required. Electronic Claims Processing has excellent income potential, working part or full time. Capital required: \$3,495 to \$7,995

For our Free Information Packet, Call us Toll Free

800-697-1569 ext. 210

NATIONAL CLAIMS SERVICE



You've got connections...

with friendly people from all over the globe. Stop in anytime to chat, swap ideas, match wits in a game or tele-trivia, network on forums around the world, and much, much more.

Free membership. Free usage, free downloading, free access to MajorNet forums and Interlink chat. Pay for only the phone call.

Load up. Download as much as you want from our huge file library-no limits, no restrictions.

Link up. Fido Net news-groups-information overload!

Join in. Open your mailbox to Internet mail—we provide the connection to the world!

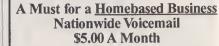
Fast Talk. Up to 14.4 Kbps transmission on 32 quality lines.

Call by modem: (715) 445-6000

Voice line: (715)743-2669



UNLEASH THE POWER OF YOUR MODEM EXPLORE THE INTERNET Complete and Immediate Access to the Internet • Very easy to navigate • No special software • Low cost - SUPER CHEAP! THE PERFECT SOURCE FOR THE BEGINNER AS WELL AS EXPERT USER The only service you'll ever need in CYBERSPACE SPECIALTY DATA & COMMUNICATIONS CORP. Call via modem 516-520-9009 N-8-1, ANSI/VTIOO



- Free nationwide 800 number (over 70 800#'s to choose from)
 - · Unlimited amount of calls
 - No per call charge
 - No per minute charge
- · Will work with pager and voicemail you have now
- · No pager necessary for service
- · No need to switch pager campanies
- 1 minute greeting
- · 2 minute message length
- · Holds messages for 7 days
- · Stores up to 50 messages at a time
- Works with any pager on any frequency
- · Change password remotely
- · Enable and Disable paging
- · Get connected today over the phone (Credit Card Orders Only)

For Information On SkyMail Call

Connect America
1-(800) 84-GET-INFO Sales

6 days a week

Prices Subject to Change After June 30th 1995

VISA







- The **HIGHEST** quality shareware available
- 100% Virus Free
- Windows, DOS, and OS/2
- Entertainment, education, business, clipart, fonts, and much much more
- LOW prices
- GREAT service

For a **FREE** catalog on disk:

MAIL: P.O. Box 773, Kirksville, Mo. 63501 (Specify 3.5" or 5.25" disk)

CALL: 1(800)700-4597 OR FAX: 1(816)665-0941

Business Hours:

Mon.-Fri. 10am - 6 pm CST

INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO

Windows™ is a trademark of Microsoft Inc

Step-by-Step Plans To BURN OFF FAT

MASTERLIFT Software plans your weightlifting workout and diet. Achieve Complete Definition!

WHAT IS MASTERLIFT?

Computer Aided Design for you body is here! The awesome power of WINDOWS allows you to achieve any growth you want--with complete muscle definition! MASTERLIFT is Virtual Software that takes weightlifting to the next level. The fastest gains possible are computed and graphed. MASTERLIFT allows you to lose fat while gaining muscle definition

HOW DOES MASTERLIFT WORK?

The MASTERLIFT system is based on 1RepMAX Technology At the start of every growth period you tell the computer your "fail points"--and it automatically calculates your "Max. Lift". carefully researched percentage tables are calculated, and your workout is designed! With this plan you will always be working out at the edge of your training envelope!

ON THE EDGE - LIKE THE PROS! Do you ever wonder "Exactly what should I do to make the most gains?" You can safely turn to MASTERLIFT for instant MASTERLIFT is like a substitute brain. It's the permanent answer to guesswork. When you use MASTER-LIFT you don't think...you just lift, grunt and sweat. The results will excite you! Your personal muscle growth and fat loss can surpass your dreams! dreamed about it...now you can do it!

DO YOU EVER WONDER "Exactly what should I do to burn off fat?" Just use the high-tech nutrition module called NUTRAPOWER! This point-and-click food computer! There is program OTHER like Point-and-click the perfect custom diet, with the exact % of Carbs, Proteins and Fats your body requires to get

super-lean super-muscular. No one can keep fat on while using NUTRAPOWER! The C.H.E.K. fat recognition system is 聯二 like an intruder alert for your body. Just try to eat something

bad for you: NUTRAPOWER spits it back in your face! EVERYTHING PRINTED ON A CHART! As you use MASTERLIFT with NUTRAPOWER, you will quickly

strip away layers of ugly fat to expose new muscle. Everything is printed on easy-to-follow Follow the printed plan to add muscle and lose fat quickly! MASTERLIFT



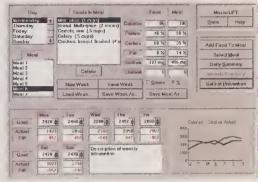
MASTERLIFT was designed by strength researchers and extensively tested in the gym. Thousands of athletes credit it with their muscular success.

with NUTRAPOWER sets up the careful balance between training and nutrition that is the key to your muscularity. It couldn't be easier!

Purchase MASTERLIFT at:

CompUSA, Computer City, Egghead, Micro Center, Best Buy and software stores across the country.

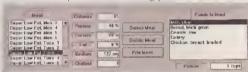
Or order direct:



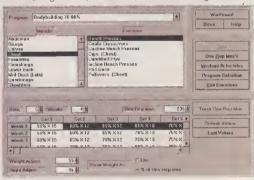
You can plan your dream physique



Stop FAT from entering your diet!



Pre-programmed meals are easy to load! Chicken Breast Tuna, Vegetables, Fruit, Rice, Beans...all the good stuff!



Use science to make it happen for you!

60-Day Risk Free Trial

60-Day Money-Back Guarantee!

You can work with MASTERLIFT & NUTRAPOWER for 60 days at no risk! During that time, MASTERLIFT will have an incredible effect on your muscularity and definition. If you are not 100% satisfied, you can send it back for an immediate refund, no questions asked. (You may still keep the training guides.)

SUPER BUNDLE SPECIAL OFFER

1	MASTERLIFT Virtual Workout	.49.95
	NUTRAPOWER Nutrition	.49.95
	Supplement Data Disk	29,95
7	Workout/Diet Training Manual	
17	Abs Training System	.19.95

ALL FOR JUST 59.95!







800-850-37 FAX (619) 457-7779











Show off your favorite photos. PC Portraits for Windows (256 colors required). Includes five free photo scans! (Additional scans \$1.99 each)

- * Fun new way to display your photos!
- * Personalize your home and office.
- * Expandable Add or remove images.
- * Free one year Scan Club membership.
- Unique gift idea.
- * 100% Money Back Guaratee.

Send your photos today!

Only \$19.95 + \$3.50 SH. Send photos (photos returned), check to

Fishpot Images Dept H, Box 438, Ballwin, MO 63022

Free Info 800-405-0000 We offer a full line of scanning services!

Buy 3 GEI 1 FREE*...

SAME DAY shipping on MOST TITLES

Bookshelf

• 7th Guest

• Cinemania

Megurace

& Me

Outpost

• Just Grandma

CD ROM Software for the Whole Family

Call for Current Pricing ON THESE HOT TITLES

- Encarta
- · Myst
- Corel Draw
- Rebel Assault
- Arthurs Teacher
- Trouble Carmen Sandiego
- Plus 100's more -

We also buy, sell & trade memory Call Toll-Free to Order or for a free update

1-800-8-CD-ROMS



Unconditionally GUARANTEED Dealer Inquiries Welcome



· Limit one free CD per household, per month. Free CD titles chosen by Consolidated and can not be substituted. Offer expires December 31, 1994

ONSOLIDATED CD ROM

515 67th Avenue · Philadelphia, PA 19126 · USA (215) 276-3657 • Fax (215) 276-3854

The Doctor Will See You Now! Endorsed By The American College Of Emergency Physicians



PIXEL PERFECT

- 660 MEGABYTES OF REAL MEDICINE!
- More than 70 Full-Motion Videos
- **Pronounces Medical Terms for You**
- 1,500 "Real Life" Photo Images, Censor Capable
- The Only CD that Can Diagnose!
- **Low Cost Updates Annually**
- Over 30,000 Embedded Hypertext Links
- **Complete Personal Record Keeping**
- **Complex Drug Interaction Analysis**
- **Includes CPR & First Aid Videos**
- **Full Print Capability**

Competitive Upgrade • Mail us ANY Medical CD. and get the Home Medical Advisor Pro for only \$39.95

See your software dealer or call us today 1-800-788-2099 Money Back Guarantee!

MEDICAL ADVISOR HOME PRO • V4.0

Stephen J. Schueler, M.D., F.A.C.E.P

TEL (407) 779-0310 • FAX (407) 777-0323 • 10460 South Tropical Trail • Merritt Island, FL 32952 Requires Microsoft Windows 3.1, CD-ROM Drive, 4 Mb RAM • Recommended: 388DX or above, 256 Color VGA • Diskette version also available, DOS or Windows 3.1

CD-ROM Multimedia Super Hits! New 1995 Update 1994's Best Seller!

New for '95 he Biggest



Now includes Windows software:

- Mosaic
- WinRamp
- Internet Guide

Here is your introduction to the intricacies of the world's largest, most complex network. Whether you are a computer expert or a complete beginner, there is a lot on this disk for ou! Get on line now and expand your

- E-Mail and file transfer protocol (FTP) for tracking file transfers.
- Internet Relay Chart (IRC) that lets you hold real-time keyboard conversations with other users.
- Access to the World-Wide Web

Dozers, Loaders & Excavators

- Thirty minutes of smooth live
- Dozens of beautiful hi-res color
- Complete information on all
- machines.

 Interactive, button operated inquiry screens. When the user clicks on different parts of the photograph of a 'dozer, loader or excavator a pop-up sub-screen appears. Each subscreen shows a close up photo or diagram of the selected part. An audio clip is played that gives interesting background and information about these modern-day dinosaurs that fascinate every child. Its educational, fun and easy to run! The whole family will love it!





Call 1 800 416-2627

Wholesale Inquiries 1 (617) 246-6767

2000+ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(YOUR OWN CIVII. WAR TRIVIA)

PLUS, MUSIC FROM THE PERIOD.

NO OTHER PRODUCT ON THE

MARKET TODAY WILL GIVE YOU

MORE OF A COMPREHENSIVE STORY

AND "FEEL" OF THE CIVIL WAR

FOR SO LITTLE MONEY.

On CD-ROM

ROM-MAN Technologies in Cooperation with InfoBase Corporation have released The Civil War on CD-ROM. This incredible CD-ROM disc coutains over 3000 original Mathew Brady

photographs of the Civil War, Over 9 textbooks of historical data has been transferred onto this CD-ROM disc for your study and amazement.

Step into your own personal CD-ROM library. Click on a book from the book-shelf and up comes the text, Click on pictures for

pictures that relate to the text. Next, click on the VCR and see a black and white Academy Award winning film from the 60's. This remarkable Academy Award winning documentary film, "The True Story of the Civil War" taken on the field of battle consists of still other photos taken by Mathew Brady, Alexander Gardner,

Henstis Cook, George Cook, Timothy O'Sullivan and many others, capture the saga of the Civil War. The original "wet plate" photographs were actually made over one hundred years ago on the field of battle. You are there thanks to The Civil War on CD-ROM.

Mathew Brady was known worldwide by many presidents, 9 TEXTBOOKS, 3000+ PHOTOS, diplomats, ACADEMY AWARD WINNING FILM.

socialites, and for the purposes of this presentation by the soldiers in the field of battle.

Why was Stonewall Jackson nicknamed Stonewall? What really happened at Fredericksburg?

Which General had the "slows" according to Abraham Lincoln? What were the terms of Lee's surrender? This movie, along with thousands of pages of text will leave no question unanswered. Just to be certain, the "Rom-Man Professors" have included thousands of questions and



ROM-MAN TECHNOLOGIES

VOICE: 800-334-8666 (ORDERS ONLY) INTL. VOICE: 508-762-0027 • FAX: 508-774-5811 44 Maple Street, Suite 7, Danvers, Massachusetts 01923

We Make Learning & Playing More Fun!



TITLE/AGES	PRICE
EARLY CHILDHOOD	
HOW THINGS WORK IN BUSYTOWN CD / 3-6	38.00
SAFETY MONKEY CDROM / 3-8	35.00
BAILEY'S BOOK HOUSE CDROM / 2-6	38.00
THINKIN' THINGS COLLECTION 1 CD / 4-8	44.00
READING/WRITING/SPELLING	
READER RABBIT INTERACTIVE JOURNEY CD / 4-7	CALL
READER RABBIT 2 DELUXE CDROM / 5-8	42.00
TORTOISE & THE HARE CDROM / 3-8	39.00
SUPER SOLVERS SPELLBOUND / 7-12	39.00
MATH	
MILLIE'S MATH HOUSE CDROM / 2-6	39.00
MATH RABBIT / 4-7	35.00
MATH BLASTER / 6-12	37.00
OPERATION NEPTUNE / 10 & UP	39.00

TITLE/AGES	PRICE
SOCIAL SCIENCES	
CARMEN WORLD DELUXE / ALL AGES	CALL
CARMEN USA / 10 & UP	37.00
AMAZON TRAIL CDROM / 9-17	49.00
OREGON TRAIL DELUXE CDROM / 10-17	47.00
CREATIVITY	
PRINT SHOP DELUXE / ALL	52.00
PRINT SHOP DLX CD ENSEMBLE	CALL
KID PIX 2 / ALL AGET	44.00
SCIENCE	
MAGIC SCHOOL BUS, HUMAN BODY / 6-10	48.00
BODY LAND CDROM / 5-11	35.00
GIZMOS & GADGETS / 7-12	37.00
TEST PREPARATION	
SAT	34.00
GMAT	39.00

TITLE/AGES	PRICE
FAMILY REFERENCE	
MAYO CLINIC FAMILY HEALTH BOOK CDROM	46.00
MAYO CLINIC FAMILY PHARMACIST CDROM	42.00
MAYO CLINIC SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS CD	44.00
MAYO CLINIC HEALTH ENCYCLOPEDIA CD	CALL
HOME TIME - HOME PROJECTS	44.00
ENTERTAINMENT	
LINKS 386 PRO GOLF	39.00
BIG HORN THE CONTRACTOR AND	24.00
PEBBLE BEACH CHAMP, COURSE	24.00
MAUNA KEA CHAMP. COURSE	24.00
MICROSOFT FLIGHT SIMULATOR V 5.1 CD	CALL
MARIO IS MISSING ! CD DELUXE	39.00
FALCON GOLD	CALL

TO ORDER CALL 1.800.631.7638

EDUCATIONAL, ENTERTAINMENT & PRODUCTIVITY SO 235 Chatham Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80906 719-576-0672 Fax 719-576-1263

Satisfaction Guaranteed:

- 30 Day Money Back
- Expert Advice
- Free Technical Support
- Special Promotions

Free Catalog!

400+ Titles in Stock

(800) 317-0224 24-Hour Order Line!



ı	GAMES	1
ı	7th Guest	1
ľ	Aegis Guordion of the Fleet 529	1
ı	Alane in the Dork 2 \$49	ı
ı	Armord Fist \$59	
ı	Battle Isle 22DD\$39	
ı	Betrayal ot Krondor \$27	
ı	Beneoth a Steel Sky \$39	
	Blind Date (National Lampoon) 549	ı
	Bloodnet	ı
l	Central Intelligence \$39	ı
i	Chessmaster 4DDD \$19	ı
ı	Crime Potrol	ı
ı	Critical Path	ł
ı	Comonche - Moximum Dverkill \$49	I
ı	Cyclemonia	ı
ı	Doy of the Tentacle \$29	ı
ı	Dark Legions\$29 Dork 5un\$29	ı
ı	Dorkseed	ı
ı		ı
ı	Dune	1
ı	Gabriel Knight	1
١	Grandest Fleet	ı
۱	Inco	1
J	Inca II \$29	Į
Į	Hellcob \$39	ı
Į	Jutlond \$24	۱
ı	Journeymon Project Turbo \$44	ı
l	Kings Quest V \$14	ı
١	Kings Quest VI \$19	ı
п	1 41 610	а

MegoDriom (6DD-new levels, Utilities, Chear's for Doom)				
MegoDoom (60D-new levels, Utilities, Cheats for Doom)	l	Mo Dag II · Łast Go	ı	Mixe Up Mot er Goase
MegoRoce	I	MegoDaom (6DD+ new levels,		New Kid on the Block \$35
MegoRoce	H	Utilities, Cheats for Doom) \$17	Н	Ozzie's World \$29
MYST	١	MegoRoce	II	Putt Putt Goes to the Moon \$35
Noscor Rocing		MYŠT S49	I	
Ponce Generol Say Police Quest V Say Police Quest V Say Provelear Say Rebel Assoult S45 Return to Zork S19 Rise of the Robots S59 Rise of the Robots S59 Som & Mox Hit the Road Say Sponce Pirotes S49 Syndicote Plus Say Stor Trek / S5th Anniversary S29 Ultima VIII Say Where in World is Carmen Dix S19 Who Shot Jahnny Rock S29 Who Shot Jahnny Rock S29 Wolf S19 KLDS		Noscor RocingSS9	I	
Ponce Generol Say Police Quest V Say Police Quest V Say Provelear Say Rebel Assoult S45 Return to Zork S19 Rise of the Robots S59 Rise of the Robots S59 Som & Mox Hit the Road Say Sponce Pirotes S49 Syndicote Plus Say Stor Trek / S5th Anniversary S29 Ultima VIII Say Where in World is Carmen Dix S19 Who Shot Jahnny Rock S29 Who Shot Jahnny Rock S29 Wolf S19 KLDS		Dutpost S39	I	
Police Quest IV \$39		Ponzer Generol S39	И	
Privoteer S39 Rebel Assoul S45 Return to Zork S19 Rise of the Robots S59 Rise of the Robots S59 Some & Mosk filt the Road S39 Spoce Pirotes S49 Sior Trek Asst Gen Tech Manuel S49 Sior Trek Rext Gen Tech Manuel S49 Sior Trek Rext Gen Tech Manuel S49 Ultima VIII S19 Moyor Clinic Family Health S19 Morock Rilling Moon (4 CD's S59 Vortex S49 Where in World is Carmen Dix S19 Who Shot Johnny Rock S29 Who Shot Johnny Rock S29 Who Shot Johnny Rock S29 Phone Dix USA Business S59 Phone Dix USA Business S19 USA Street Altos (Delorme) S79 S10		Police Quest IV		REFERENCE
Rebel Assoul			H	Adam Inside Story \$49
Return to Zork		Rebel Assoult	1	Animals (San Diena Zon) \$17
Rise of the Robots S39 Som & Mox Hit the Road S39 Som & Mox Hit the Road S39 Space Pirotes S49 Syndictole Plus S39 Stor Trek Z5th Anniversory S29 Stor Trek Z5th Anniversory S29 Stor Trek Z5th Anniversory S29 Stor Trek Mext Gen Tech Manuel S49 Subwar 205D S39 Microsoft Encorto 95 S59 Ultima VIII S39 Microsoft Encorto 95 S59 Microsoft Enco				
Som & Mox Hir the Road S39 Space Pirotes S49 Syndicole Plus S39 Stor Trek Z5th Anniversory S29 Stor Trek Rate Gen Edn Manuel S49 Subwar 2D50 S39 Ultima VIII S39 Under o Killing Moon (4 CD's) S59 Wortex S49 Where in World is Carmen Dix S19 Who Shot Jahnny Rock S29 Wolf S19 **EDS** **Authur Teacher's Trauble S19 Authur's Birthday Surprise S39 Forty Bear's Birthday Surprise S39 Forty Bear's Birthday Surprise S39 Fotry & the Hounted House S35 Just Grondma & Me S19 Storeware & Pack Barbard S49 Hocker Chronicles Vol 2 Streeware & Misc **Streeware & Misc **Hocker Chronicles Vol 2 Streeware & S27 Shareware & Misc **Hocker Chronicles Vol 2 Streeware & S27 Shareware & Misc **Hocker Chronicles Vol 2 Streeware & S27 Shareware & Packer Chronicles Vol 2 Streeware & S27 Shareware & Misc **Hocker Chronicles Vol 2 S27 Shareware & S27 Shareware & Misc				
Spoce Pirotes				
Syndicote Plus		Snore Pirotes S49		Family Doctor 3rd addition \$19
Sior Trek Avst Gen Tech Manuel S49		Syndicote Plus \$39		Haldemons Diories \$19
Stor Trek Next Gen Tech Manuel S49		Stor Trek 25th Anniversory \$29		
Subwar 2050 S39 Ultima VIII S39 Ultima VIII S39 Under o Killing Moon (4 CD's) S59 Multimedia World History S19 Vortex S49 Multimedia World History S19 Who Shot Jahnny Rock S29 Who Shot Jahnny Rock S29 Who Shot Jahnny Rock S19 Who Shot Jahnny Rock S19 Who Shot Jahnny Rock S19 Who Shot Jahnny Rock S29 Sociales Magical House S39 Safety Rock S35 Ust Grandma & Me S19 Shareware & Misc Hacker Chronicles Vol 2 S27 Shareware & pock (6 CD's ShoreWore, Lion Kim Story Book S35 Safety Rock S35 Safety R		Stor Trek Next Gen Tech Manual S49		Move Clinic Family Health \$10
Ultima VIII	II			Microsoft Encorto Q5 \$50
Under o Killing Moon (4 CD's)	I	Illtima VIII 539	ı	
Vortex	I		ı	Multimedia World History \$10
X-Wing Square Square Square Where in World is Curren Dix S19 Who Shot Jahnny Rock S29 Wolf S19 KLIDS Authur Teocher's Trouble S19 Authur's Birthdoy S35 Borbies Magicol House S35 Horry & the Hounted House S35 Just Torndima & Me S19 Just Torndima & Me S19 Just Torndima & Me S35 Just Torndima & Me S35	Į		ı	National Parks of America \$10
Where in World is Garmen Dix 519 Who Shot Jahnny Rock 529 Wolf 519 KIDS Authur Teocher 51 Trouble 519 Authur's Birthdoy 335 Borbies Magical House 539 Forty Bear's Birthday 5urprise 335 Horry & the Hounted House 335 Just Forndmo & Me 519 Lion Kim Story Book 535	l		ı	
Who Shot Jahnny Rock \$29 Wolf \$19 Who Bird Fower Finder (Search by Phone Birs Fower Finder (Search by Phone #, oddress, Includes 5 CD's with Buss & Res. \$169 Durk & Eosy Sponish (Stibks) \$27 Redshift \$19 Wish Buss & Res. \$169 Durk & Eosy Sponish (Stibks) \$27 Redshift \$19 Wish Buss & Res. \$169 Durk & Eosy Sponish (Stibks) \$27 Redshift \$19 Wish Buss & Res. \$10 Wish Buss & Res. \$10 Wish Buss & Wish Bu	II	Where in World is Carmon Dly \$10	ŀ	
Wolf S19	I		li	
Authur Teocher's Trauble 519 Authur's Birthdoy 535 Borbies Mogical House 535 Horry & the Hounted House 535 Horry & the Hounted House 535 Liust Grandma & Me 535 Lion Kin Stor Book 535	I	Wolf C10	II	
Authur Teocher's Trauble 519 Authur's Birthdoy 535 Borbies Magicol House 539 Forbies Magicol House 539 Horry & the Hounted House 531 Just Drandino & Me 519 Lion Kim Story Boak 535	۱		I	with Duce 9 Doc C140
Authur Teocher's Trauble	ı	KIDS	H	Duick 9 Focu Spanish (Stable) \$27
Authur's Birthdoy \$35 Borbies Mogical flouse \$35 Forby Bear's Birthday Surprise \$35 Harry & the Hounted House \$35 Just Grandma & Me \$35 Lion Kin *Stor *Boak \$35	ı	Authur Teacher's Trauble \$19	H	Radchift CAQ
Borbies Magicol House	ı		H	IISA Street Atles (Delorme) \$70
Fotty Beor's Birthday Surprise \$35 Horry & the Hounted House \$35 Just Grandma & Me \$19 Lion Kin Stor Book \$35 WindowsWore BizznessWore SwimSur	ı		ı	
Horry & the Hounted House S35 Hocker Chronicles Vol 2 S27 Just Grondmo & Me S19 Sharewore 6-pack (6 CD's:ShoreWore, Lion Kin Stor Book S35 WindowsWore BizznessWore, SwimSu-	l	Fotty Reor's Rirthday Surprise \$35	II	Shareware & Misc
Just Grondmo & Me	I	Horry & the Hounted House \$35	I	Hocker Chronicles Vol 2 \$27
Lion Kin Stor Book	I	Just Grondmo & Me S19	ı	
	I		ı	
	I	Little Monster at School \$35	ı	PC Games, Sights & Sounds \$39

Make Computer Gallery your source for CD-ROM's: Computer Gallery

Order by Phone, Fax, Mail: Visa, MC, Check, M.O.
Same day shipping (U.S. orders placed before 3:00pm)
S&H (via Authorne Express): Soforder for 2-day, S9/order for Overnight. Call/Fax for S&H cost outside of U.S.

Computer Gallery
P.O. Box 409
Perrysburg, Ohio 43552
For Overnight. Call/Fax for S&H cost outside of U.S. Phone:(419) 874-0288 Fax:(419) 874-2944

Get the news that changed your world in 1994 - captured for life on CD-ROM!





The multimedia yearbook of the most exciting people, places, faces, names, & events of 1994 - available now on CD-ROM!

A riveting review of 100 of CNN's top-ranked stories plus hundreds of articles, graphics, photos, and political cartoons from U.S. News & World Report and other sources make this a must for your CD-ROM collection! From the transfer of power in South Africa to the devastating Los Angeles earthquake, from Nancy Kerrigan's Olympic Silver medal to the passing of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis these and many more exciting stories are preserved forever in more than 90 minutes of brilliant full-color video. Order yours today!

Only \$29.95 plus \$4.95 shipping & handling.



ORDER NOW 1-800-696-0507 x 600 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



VICARIOUS USINEWS



Extensive search and navigation tools enable you to access information instantly.

advertisers index

This index is provided as an additional service by the publisher, which assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

advertiser	page	advertiser	page	advertiser	page
A.N. Media	142	ERGOkids	240	National Computerize	d Business
Acer America Corp		Fidelity Investment		Services Inc.	227
AlphaSport		Fishpot Images		NEC Technologies	
America Online	195-196	Ford North America		NeoSoft Corp	238
American Business In		Fusion Software	213	NetManage	135
	1+1	Future Vision Multi		Nokia Display Product	
American Power Conv		Gateway 2000	66-69		
	40-43	Global Gallery		NRI Schools	
Apple Computer		Grantham College		NU Reality	19
AST Research		Gryphon Software		Okidata	
AT&T Global Informat		HealthByte		Parsons Technology	
		Hefty Publishing Co		PCDI	
Automap Inc		Hewlett-Packard		Philips Interactive	173
Best Personalized Boo		IBM Direct		Pixel Perfect	
		IBM Multimedia Pu		Precision Data	223
Books That Work		Studio	_	Princeton Review	151
Bose		IBM OS/2		Prodigy	
Canon Computer System		IDEX Software		Quantex Microsystem	
Oanon Computer Cyst		ImagiNation Netwo		QuiltSOFT	
Class Act Multimedia.		Institute of Technic		SAFEWARE, The Insur	
Compton's NewMedia		matitute of fection		Agency Inc.	
Compuclassics		Integrated Educati		Seattle Filmworks	
CompuServe		Interplay Production		Serif Inc.	
Computer Express		interplay Froductio		Shapeware Visio	
Computer Gallery		IVI Publishing		Sierra On-Line/Bright	
Comtrad Industries		JetForm		Smart Luck Software	
Connect America		KEYTEC Inc.		Sony Electronics Inc.	
Consolidated CD ROM		Kidsoft Inc.		Specialty Data &	
Corel Systems Corp		KYE International		Communications Co	998
CPM Merchandising In		Landmark Researc		Studio Magic Inc	197
Creative Labs		Landmark nesearc		T/Maker	
Creative Multimedia		Lawrence Producti		Test Drive	
CTX International		Logitech		The Blue Ribbon Soun	
		LucasArts		Ltd	
CyberMedia		M&R Enterprises		The Discovery Channe	
Datastorm Technologi		Mag Innovision	6.7	The Edutainment Com	
Delorme Mapping		MacTec Inc		The Educationent Con	
Delphi Internet				The Source	999
Delrina Technology Inc		Marquette		Touch Soft	
Designer Checks		Maxis	,	TransLanguage Inc	
Diamar Interactive		MECC			
Disney Software		Medio		Twelve Tone Systems U.S. Robotics	
E ² Soft		Micron Computer			
Edmark		Midisoft		USA Flex User's Choice	
EDUCORP		Mr. CD-ROM			
Emerald Software Inc.		My Software		Vicarious	
Epson America	12-13	National Claims Se	rvice227	Yamaha	52

HomePC (ISSN #1073-1784), Vol. 2, No. 3, is published monthly for \$21.97 per year by CMP Media, 600 Community Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030. Second-class pending postage paid at Manhasset, NY, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HomePC, P.O. Box 420211, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0211. Registered for GST as CMP Media. GST #138355995, agreement number 0497827.

CHARTER SAVINGS ON

HOMEPO

The computing magazine for the rest of us-- home PC users who want to learn more and get greater use from their computers.



Subscribe today and take advantage of our special charter offer. You'll see what a difference

HOMEPC

will make in your life.



CHARTER OFFER

Start my **CHARTER** subscriptian ta **HOMEPC** today. I'll get 12 issues for just \$12.97. That's a savings of almast 41% aff the bosic annual rote. Plus, I'll receive o free gift with my poid subscription, the "HOMEPC FunPak" disk full af fun and useful saftware programs.

Send no money now. We'll gladly bill you.

Basic annual subscriptian rate is \$21.97. Canadian subscriptian rote is \$22.97 (Canadian GST is included). Foreign subscriptian rate is \$39.97, U.S. funds, prepaid only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of first issue.

6503NH

GREAT SAVINGS

YES! I wont to get more aut af the entire home camputing experience. Start my **CHARTER** subscriptian ta **HOMEPC** taday. I'll get 12 issues far just \$12.97. That's o sovings af almast 41% aff the basic annual rate. Plus, I'll receive o free gift with my paid subscriptian, the "HOMEPC FunPak" disk full af fun ond useful saftware pragrams.

Send no money now. We'll gladly bill you.

Basic annual subscriptian rate is \$21.97. Canadian subscriptian rate is \$22.97 (Canadian GST is included). Fareign subscriptian rate is \$39.97, U.S. funds, prepaid anly. Please allaw 6-8 weeks for delivery af first issue.

6503NM

GIVE A SUPER GIFT!

YES! I'd like to give o one-year gift subscription of **HOMEPC** to the special person named belaw. My cost is just \$12.97- that's a savings of almost 41% off the basic annual rate. Plus, they'll receive a free "HOMEPC FunPak" disk after payment hos been received.

Bill Me:

My Name

Gift Name

Address

City

City

State

Zip

State

Zip

State

Please begin a gift subscription for:

City State

Zip

State

Zip

Send no money now. We'll gladly bill you.

Basic annual subscriptian rate is \$21.97. Canadian subscriptian rate is \$22.97 (Canadian GST is included). Foreign subscriptian rate is \$39.97, U.S. funds, prepaid only. Please allaw 6-8 weeks for delivery af first issue.

F503NG

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO.27 FLAGLER BEACH, FL

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

P.O. BOX 420212 PALM COAST FL 32142-9468

hdhaddaddalalddalalddalalalantti

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES



BUSINESS REPLY

FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO.27 FLAGLER BEACH, FL

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

P.O. BOX 420212 PALM COAST FL 32142-9468

lalladan lalaladda lalalada Milalada Mil



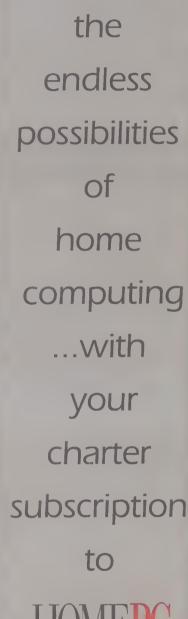
NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO.27 FLAGLER BEACH, FL

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

P.O. BOX 420212 PALM COAST FL 32142-9468



Explore



AWARD WINNING SOFTWARE



Lost Tribe™

A modern game of strategy in a prehistoric world.

- Builds decision making and leadership skills • Full motion
- video clips ·Intriguing ran-
- dom events • Ages 8 and up
- DOS, MAC, Apple IIgs



Nigel's™ World

Adventures in world geography.

- Four challenging levels of play
- International folk songs and digitized speech in 17 languages
- Nearly 1,000 fascinating facts
- •Ages 7 and up
- DOS, MAC. MAC CD-ROM



McGee™ **Triple Pack**

No Words Preschool Software. Parent's Choice Award Winner

- Money-saving triple pack: McGee® Katie's Farm, and McGee at the Fun Fair™
- •Ages 2-5
- DOS, MAC, Apple Ilgs, Amiga
- Programs also available separately.

AWRENCE

Call today: 1-800-421-4157

SOFTWARE YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE!

The Edutainment Catalog offers over 200 best-selling children's educational software titles for DOS and Macintosh computers on diskette

*Free Consultaion *30 Day Guarantee

and CD-ROM.

*Discount Prices



800-338-384

The Edutainment Company

932 Walnut Street, Louisville, CO 80027 303-661-0799 Fax 661-9303

Foreign Language Software Translators-Word Processors-Tutorials-Fonts & More!

Hanme Hangul

Laatib 2.0





- O Best Arabic DTP & WP
- Great for Newsletters and flyers

Vazhe Negar 2.0 Slais

O Best Farsi DTP & WP

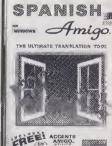


© 6 True Type Fonts

HanMe for Windows Use Korean in English Windows

Supports Hangul and Hanja

- Easy & Powerful To Use
- Switch to Korean or English



- O Powerful easy-to-use
- O Never leave your WP
- 150,000 word dictionary
- Add words to dictionary



Buy Best

KORNER/LANGUAGE

KIDS

Free \$29 Spanish Keyboard utility Spanish Accented Characters in any Windows Application

Spanish To/from English Translator

Russian Bower Translator



FREE CATALOG TransLanguage Inc.

Satisfaction Guaranteed



Great Deals!

✓ Chinese or Japanese Windows translation dictionary \$29! ✓ Learn Russian, Japanese or French multimedia tutorial \$29!

Russian/English-Korean/English-Hebrew/English Keyboards \$39

True Type Fonts- Hebrew, Russian, Greek & 50+ Languages \$29!

Same day delivery "Great Buys on language software you just can't find in retail stores"

800-308-88

FREE CATALOG PO Box 18024 Anaheim CA. 92807 Fax (714) 998-1296

MULTIMEDIA MADE EASY

NeoBook MultiMedia Pack

NeoBook's easy to use floating tool bar allows you to construct your publication using simple drag and drop actions.

Easily drop in text files, complete with scroll bars.

It's simp e to set up reader command buttons and other interactive controls. Quickly create an interface which allows the reader to turn pages, jump to another page, search for text, pop up messages, run another program, view a slide show presentation, and much more

ABSTRUCT

ABSTRU

Promotional Material



NeoBook comples your publication into single executable (EXE) program file for distribution. No runtime royalties.

Import graphic images from the powerful included image editor, or from other s ftware.

Presentations created with the included slide show program may be played in a window within your publication.

Include animation and sound files. Support for both the PC internal speaker and for Sound Blaster** and compatible audio cards

NeoBook MultiMedia Pack Can Produce a Wide Variety of Electronic Publications



Educational Materials



Presentations



Multimedia Newslett rs

Ask about our other affordable graphical applications:

MeoPaint

Makes it easy to create and edit graphic images. Includes module which allows mages to be arranged into stunning audiovisual presentations.

For more information, or a dealer in your area:

1-800-545-1392

To help you evaluate our award-winning software, NeoSoft Corp. carries trial copies of several programs which you may download at no charge from our 24-hour BBS.



All brand and product names are trademarks of their respective holders

QuikMenu/II

Puts a beautiful new graphic face on any DOS system. Powerful file manager, desktop utilities, E-Mail, wallpaper, etc. Launches any DOS program with a single mouse click

(503) 389-5489 TEL. (503) 383-7195 BBS (503) 388-8221 FAX

354 NE Greenwood Ave., Suite 108 Bend, OR 97701-4631

I sang to my computer last night ...

Then it sang back! Better than I ever imagined. Melody Maestro wrote an entire song around my silly little melody. (All I did was hum into my mic!)

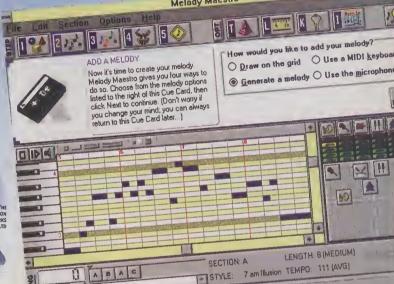
With just a click, I was a rock star...then Mozart... then a country singer...

I've sung in the shower, but never to my PC...

Melody Maestro.
It's music to your ears.

Got a soundcard???? Call 1-800-226-0212!

404/315-0212 - 404/315-0213 fax



HOMEPIX

Where you'll find product and service information you can use to help you make your buying decisions.

Cakewalk



Turn On, Play In, Print Out

With **Cakewalk Home Studio™**, making music on your PC has never been easier.

Play along with MIDI files. Improve your musical skills. Create and print

original compositions. Even add voice or sound effects to your MIDI tracks for multimedia presentations.

- > 256-track MIDI sequencer for Windows 3.1
- > Works with sound cards and MIDI instruments
- > Staff view, piano roll, faders, tempo map, more
- > Prints up to 16 staves per page
- > Fast drag-and-drop editing
- > Plays back digital audio wave files
- > Includes load-and-play sony files and rhythm patterns

"Now Only \$129!"

To order, or for more information, call **800-234-1171** or **617-926-2480**.

Dem

Demo pack \$5. Song file collections and drum patterns also available.



S Y S T E M S
P O Box 760, Watertown, MA 02272

ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT MONITOR SHELF ADJUSTABLE KEYBOARD, CPU & MOUSE **WORK SURFACE** COLORFUL, DURABLE MATERIALS WITH SOFT EDGING SEAT AND BACKREST CASTERS FOR EASY MOBILITY COLOR REVERSIBLE SIDE PANELS EASY 15 MINUTE ASSEMBLY! THE COMPUTER DESK AND CHAIR THAT GROWS WITH YOUR CHILD. Your kids are spending more time learning and playing at their computer. ERGOkids computer desk and chair have been created by

parents like you, concerned about your child's comfort and posture. Based on ANSI ergonomic design standards, our furniture is safe,

FREE SHIPPING

comfortable, durable and cool looking. Fully-adjustable seats and work surfaces grow and adapt to the changing size of any child ages 3-10 and can accommodate all computer models.

818-896-6333 9-5 PM PST



700 GUIDES

The ZooGuides Series

The ZooGuides Series covers the whole animal world. Each volume is designed and written by experts in the field of Life Sciences.

Published by REMedia

"...a series of beautiful interactive zoo discs."

---MacUser Magazine

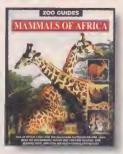
Each volume includes:

- full motion video
- expert narration
- animation
- photography
- distribution maps
- guide to families/species

Also available:

- ZooGuides v.1: Butterflies of the World
- ZooGuides v.2: Whales and Oolphins
- ZooGuides v.6: Life in the Oesert

Mammals of Africa .*39%

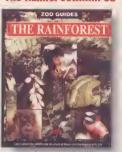


ZooGuides v.3 MPC/MAC #1275

"...the intro sections are outstanding. Beautiful photos and handy films."

—PC Novice

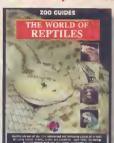
The Rainforest......\$3985



ZooGuides v.4 MPC/MAC #50300
"An excellent educational resource, regardless of age."

-RAN World Rainforest Report

World of Reptiles....83985



THE PIONEER of CD-ROM Publishing

Midnight Stranger.. \$5986



Rated *** "Mature audiences will find themselves captivated..." —Computer Gaming World

Top 10 CO-ROMs 1994 ----American Way Magazine

Top 50 CO-ROMs 1994 —New Media Magazine

You've just arrived in a bustling city. Visit landmarks, go to a nightclub, cafe, restaurant or the theater. Interact with 18 different characters as you roam freely between 23 locations. Mature audience.

MAC #50316 MPC #2-50316

Marilyn/André\$54%



An interactive biography. Features the photos of photographer André de Dienes. **MPC #2-50340, MAC #50340**

Game Room.....1996



Over 1,000 commercial quality games for Mac and 100 for Windows. **WIN/MAC #P1611**

Encyclopedia of Life 854%



Planet Earth revealed in this interactive multimedia encyclopedia.

MPC #2-1280, MAC #1280

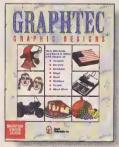
1,000's of Fonts......\$19%



1,500 fonts for Windows and 1,200 fonts for Macintosh.

WIN/MAC #P2067

GraphTec Designs...\$3985



Over 800 color and black/white professional EPS images. **WIN/DOS/MAC #1680**

Pro Backgrounds ... 6486



100 royalty-free backgrounds in high-resolution. **KOOAK Photo CO #50204**

Gazelle Technologies, Inc.

The Pioneer of CO-ROM Publishing San Oiego California 92121 619-693-4030 • FAX 619-536-2345

See your local retailer or call:

1-800-CD-ROMS-5

1-800-237-6675

HPC1

CYBERMEDIA

First Aid automatically detects and FIXES most common configuration problems with Windows. multimedia, networking, printing, and major applications ranging from Microsoft Office and Lotus SmartSuite to Quicken and CorelDRAW! All you need to do is push the FIX button! It's like having a full-time technical expert at your command 24-hours, seven davs a week.

"Pretty Amazing" - Steve Bass, PC WORLD!



REPAIRS PC PROBLEMS AUTOMATICALLY!

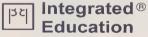


1-800-PC-1ST-AID

INTEGRATED EDUCATION

Algebra made Easy

Someone in your family is taking Algebra? We have an exciting software that will help slow students to catch up and average students to excel. IE Algebra is an interactive multimedia software for WindowsTM. It covers Basic Algebra and Intermediate Algebra. Each session has lecture, examples and exercises with pictures, videos, etc. IE Algebra can graph any function and automatically generate exercise problems and answers. Non-multimedia edition is also



Personal & Practical

1-800-917-3338

PRECISION DATA CORPORATION

YOUR COMPUTER CAN MAKE MONEY WHILE YOU SLEEP

Our revolutionary new computer-based business will have your computer working automatically all night while you sleep, providing a valuable data protection service for businesses in your area. Remote Backup Services are growing by leaps and bounds all across the country. Get your part of this amazing new business now for only \$329, complete. Uses your own PC computer and modem. Call our 24-hr automated Information/Fax-On-Demand system for complete information.

> Computer Business Kits™ by Precision Data Corporation We Bring Business Home™

1-901-681-0445 ext. 116

ERGOKIDS

Computer Desk That Grows With Your Child!

A unique new Computer Desk & Chair Set for Children ages 3 to 10. It not only allows adjustments of desk top, monitor, seat and backrest heights for proper posture and complete computing comfort, but also can be adjusted as your child grows! Finished in durable and colorful materials with soft edging. Easy 5-minute assembly. For further information see our ad on Page 240 or call us.



818-896-6333

M&R ENTERPRISES

Cross Stitch Software

Use your home PC to generate your own cross stitch patterns with PCStitch for Windows 2.0. This unique Windows based application allows users to transform their own ideas into printed cross stitch patterns by either importing graphic files, drawing freehand, or both. Drawing tools include copy, move, paint, center, flip, and rotate. We support 390 DMC thread colors as well as full, half, quarter, and outline stitches. All this and much more for only \$79.95. Call today or look for us at your local software store.

وللتعالية ولا الكالاتكام

1-800-800-8517

SMART LUCK® SOFTWARE

Winning Lotto Systems

The jackpot winning systems created by America's original lottery expert, Gail Howard, can help you beat the odds and cash in winning tickets. Her unprecedented success in creating dozens of lottery millionaires has led to hundreds of appearances on radio and TV, including The Today Show and Good Morning America. Gail Howard's Smart Luck® Software is fast, flexible, easy to use, professional, superior to any we have seen. Unquestionable the Rolls Royce of lottery software



1-800-876-4245

GRANTHAM COLLEGE

Learn through home study and get ahead faster with an accredited degree offered through Grantham College. All of our degrees are accredited by the Accrediting Commission of the Distance and Training Council, which is listed by the U.S. Department of Education as a nationally recognized agency. Grantham College offers you the ability to get your Bachelor or Associate Degree in Computer Science or Engineering Technology. You are in a class of one with Grantham College. Call today for OUT FREE catalog.

GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



1-800-955-2527

NЕОВООК

Now anyone can quickly create state-of-the art electronic publications such as multimedia books, interactive training aids, disk-based brochures/newsletters, and other projects using NeoBook Multimedia Pack. Although NeoBook contains many powerful features, it is simple to use—requiring no programming skills or complicated scripting to produce a professional-looking, graphical interface. Your work may be easily compiled into a self-contained program which may be distributed royalty-free.



1-800-545-1392

STUDIO MAGIC **CORPORATION**

Personal Video Studio is the next step in multimedia. It is virtually a videotape production studio in a box. It lets you connect two video sources as input, cut between them, and add graphics, images, sound, music, and animations from your PC. You can create titles, special effects, and overlays and use included transitions to sequence the events for final output to your video tape and/or TV. Create exciting videos for home and business use.



1-800-314-MAGIC

THE BLUE RIBBON SOUNDWORKS

You can be a Melody Maestro!

Turn that tune you're humming into a song. Create original music around your melody in five easy steps. Start by selecting a musical style. Next hum that tune you've got in your head into a microphone. Then select from several melody enhancements, and finally create an accompaniment. Build an introduction and a close into your song and *Abracadabra*, you have become the Melody Maestro! Order Melody Maestro for just \$79.95, or call and ask about our other fabulous music products.

THE BLUE RIBBON SOUNDWORKS LTD

1-800-226-0212

THE EDUTAINMENT CATALOG

Call now to receive your FREE catalog of today's best-selling software for the whole family. The catalog features hundreds of children's educational software programs as well as entertaining and informative titles for grown-ups - all from leading publishers such as Microsoft, Broderbund, Davidson, The Learning Company, Disney Software, The Discovery Channel, and many more! We offer discount prices, a 30 day satisfaction guarantee, free technical support, and expert consultation from our knowledgeable customer service representatives.

The Edutainment Company

1-800-338-3844

USER'S CHOICE

THE INTERNET BOOT CAMP[™]
The Video Guide For The Raw Recruit

The video that guides you through the EASY installation of everything you need to vault onto the Information highway - NOW! Learn about the Internet. What it is, what it costs, how to use it and how to cruise it right from your home! Also includes 2 FREE disks loaded with easy Windows software so you can get started in minutes! 2 Hours! ONLY \$29.95. 30 day money back guarantee.



1-800-413-8273





finishing touch

REFLECTIONS



Turn on the TV, scan any newspaper or magazine, or just watch your kids use the PC and you'll get the message that home computers are changing society. Computer and software mak-

Shopping for a PC: The 'trends' don't justify the means

By

Faith

Popcorn

ers and retailers are quick to encourage this thinking. But when you track societal trends as closely as I do, it's just as clear that these businesses may be in for a shock: You, the home consumer, will change computing, too.

Take a quick look at some of the emerging patterns in consumer behavior and it's easy to see why home computers excite us. For example, the pace of change in the world gives rise to a trend I call "cocooning," our desire to spend more time enjoying the comforts of home, a space we can control. What better way, then, to interact socially than through an on-line service, protected by our PC screens? We also show an intense desire for "fantasy adventure": From the safety of our cocoons we crave new experiences, and super-realistic multimedia games deliver. Or, consider a trend I call "egonomics," an individual's urge to stand out from the crowd. There are many ways we make personal statements with our PCs, from our own startup screens to taking a stand in on-line discussions.

But for all the ways PCs fit some of today's trends for consumers, others aren't being addressed at all by the businesses

that furnish us with hardware and software. I call the first of these trends "icon toppling": As a result of major societal changes—in this case, the wide availability of affordable home computers—we question certain beliefs we used to take for granted, such as the notion that technology is only for the elite. The second, related trend is the "vigilante consumer": Smart shoppers enter a market and, if we don't like what we see, we convince marketers to change by the way we choose to spend our dollars.

I recently visited a computer superstore. It was huge, and as noisy as a video arcade. The signs were no help. It was like walking into a strange church with language and rituals clear only to the faithful. I visited a few more stores and noticed something else about the sales floors: I counted a total of 54 men and just one woman among the sales assistants, yet I'd esti-

mate the ratio of male to female customers I saw

was 3-to-2. Here's where yet another key trend hits home for computing. I call it "female think": Businesses owned by women will employ more people than the Fortune 500 in the next decadeand, in many cases, the businesses women set up will encourage "telecommuting," or working at home and connecting to the office by computer. Female entrepreneurs will buy a lot of equipment and software. Will they be comfortable at the stores I visited? Probably not, but you can count on new outlets springing up that do make them-and many men-happy.

The same trend applies to software. We've seen hundreds of CD-ROMs targeted to men, nearly none to women. Part of the problem is the residual "old-thiuk" spirit of the traditionally insular computer culture. Think of the aggressive language: hard drive, flame, crash. Think of the inspiration of so much entertainment software-action movies like The Terminator and Robocop. If computer businesses don't pay attention, there will be action aplenty: "Female think" will hit them like a 21st

Faith Popcorn is president of BrainReserve, a business consultant

252 HOMEPC March 1995

century Thelma and Louise. firm based in New York. Photograph by Mario Ruiz; logo art by Terry Allen Those PCs you were looking at yesterday have just become yesterday's news.

It's a speakerphone, a fast modem. It's listening to voicemail while you're sending a fax. It's how to eat the Big Boys' lunch.

Welcome to the new world of Personal Computing and Communications—PC&C. And the powerful task management capabilities the AT&T Globalyst™ 360TPC brings to your work at home or small business. We listened to what people like

business. We listened to what people like you said about how they work. And created a solution that works like an entire office. Complete with secretary.

It starts with a fully featured multi-media platform. And adds a single-board communications command center. Including fax. Voicemail. Online access. Answering machine. Speed dialing. Autodialing. Phone book. Music on hold. And a whole lot of things no one else can offer.

The Globalyst 360TPC is also a full duplex speakerphone. (That's technospeak for brilliantly clear, natural sounding, naturally overlapping conversations with your client or your boss.)

The speaker/microphone not only has AT&T Bell Labs' unparalleled acoustics, it sits anywhere you want it on your desk. So you don't have to hang over the monitor on conference calls.

What's more, the 360TPC searches its built-in personal phone directory to match up Caller ID numbers with a name, so you know who's calling you before you answer.

There are three ways to order your AT&T Globalyst PC&Cs. From America's premier resellers, from the finest PC retail outlets, or direct. Call 1 800 848-5489 to find out more. Or call our fax-back service at 1 800 438-4282 and ask for document 7360.



Now that NCR and AT&T are one, computing and communications have come together to help you get, move, and use information.





Introducing the first PC&C for work-at-home.

The Globalyst 360TPC.





You'll Find a Wealth of Retirement Expertise in These Two 3½" Squares.

Fidelity Retirement Planning Thinkware™ is your guide to retirement investing. If you're ready to get serious about saving for retirement, here's the software that can show you the way — and help you fine-tune your investment strategy.

Thinkware makes it easier.

Using the experience of Fidelity's retirement professionals, Thinkware makes it easy to calculate how much you may need to save to achieve your retirement goals and then help you determine the mix of investments that may work for you.

Try some "What if" scenarios.

What if you assume higher or lower interest or inflation rates? What if you want to retire early? Or change the amount you invest each month? Thinkware can "crunch" your numbers

and present the various scenarios so you can save those that work best for you.

With Thinkware, you get the practical information you need to make wise investment choices — plus explanations of fundamental investing concepts that you can apply to all your investing decisions.

Set up your investment strategy.

Finally, your Thinkware Action Plan will summarize the results of your input and create (and print out) a possible investment strategy that you may want to adopt to achieve your retirement savings goals.

And once you've reviewed your Action Plan, you can peruse Fidelity's product catalog to see how you might put your Action Plan into practice. All this for just \$15.00 plus \$2.50 shipping and sales tax, where applicable.

To order Fidelity Retirement Planning Thinkware, call us anytime. 1-800-457-1768



2d
For more complete information on any Fidelity fund, including charges and expenses, please call for a free prospectus. Read the prospectus carefully before you invest or send money. The software requires an IBM PC or compatible computer with DOS, a hard drive, a 286 processor, and at least 640K of available RAM. An EGA or higher resolution color monitor is recommended. Thinkware™ is a trademark of FMR Corp. Microsoft® is a registered trademark and Windows™ is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. IBM® is a registered trademark of International Business Machines Corporation. Fidelity Distributors Corp. Fidelity Investments Institutional Services Company, Inc.